

HISTORY  
OF THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BORDENTOWN, N. J.

1845 - 1945





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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ...

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REV. ALDEN C. SCOVEL  
Founder



The History  
of the  
First Presbyterian Church  
of  
Bordentown, New Jersey

ORGANIZED MAY 14, 1848

Compiled By Orson H. Brown  
Clerk of Session

Published by the  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
On Its 100th Anniversary  
May 14, 1948

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## DEDICATION

To the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, N. J., its congregations, past, present and future, and particularly to the boys and girls, teachers and officers of its Sunday School, upon whom the future of the church so largely depends.





## FOREWORD

When decision was made that a brief history of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown should be written as an essential feature of observing the One Hundredth Anniversary of the church, it was recognized at once that Elder Orson H. Brown was the man especially qualified to write an account of some of the interesting events and prominent people, contributing to the life and growth of the church during the years from 1848 to 1948.

Orson H. Brown was born in Bordentown, on May 18, 1872, and was educated in the Bordentown Public School graduating in 1888. He entered the service of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in 1893 and remained with that Company until his retirement on November 1st, 1945. During the latter period of his service, he was Chief of the Contract Bureau, New York Zone, P. R. R. Co. and Long Island R. R. Co., with office in Pennsylvania Station, New York City.

Mr. Brown has taken an active interest in practically all phases of the civic life of Bordentown. He was a member of the City Commission for 15 years, and served as Mayor of the City from 1931 to 1933, during which period he was the active director of the elaborate celebration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of Bordentown.

Since its organization, he has been a member of the Bordentown Historical Society, and is now its President. He is also President of the Bordentown Library Association.

Mr. Brown has been a member of the Presbyterian Church Sunday School from 1878 throughout the entire period of his life to date; he united with the church by confession in 1892; was Superintendent of the Sunday School from 1901 to 1945, and since then has been Superintendent Emeritus. He was a Trustee of the church from 1897 to 1935 and President of the Board from 1910 to 1935; was chosen Elder in 1904 and has served as such ever since that date. Since 1917 to the present time, he has been Clerk of Session. In this capacity, he has kept his records so well that he has merited and repeatedly received the highest commendation of the Examining Committee of Church Records of Monmouth Presbytery.

For many years Mr. Brown has been an outstanding member of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown. An interesting sidelight on his family connection with the church is the fact that his parents were married by Reverend Alden Scovel, Founder of the church; Mrs. Brown's parents were married by Reverend Joseph Greenfield, Jr., the first ordained pastor of the church; Mr. Brown and his wife (Sarah N. Mershon) were married by Reverend Oliver A. Kerr, pastor of the church for 22 years; his daughter, Margaret L. Brown, was married to Herbert G. Hannemann by Reverend Roberts Williams, pastor of the church for 15 years; and his younger daughter, Dorothy M. Brown, was married to Thomas A. Adams by Reverend William A. Guenther, who was the immediate predecessor of the present pastor.

DAVID STYER

Elder and President Board of Trustees.



## PREFACE

The writer of this book accepted the task with some misgivings but as the work progressed and the events of the past took ever clearer and clearer form, he became greatly interested and the misgivings faded away.

After all, 100 years is not so long. The writer had personal contact with some of the very earliest characters mentioned in the book, and respected and admired them. This year, he proposes to shift his birthday from May 18th to May 14th, so that the church and he may celebrate together. There will be only twenty-four years difference, and what does that amount to!

ORSON H. BROWN



## Historical Background

The preparation of a comprehensive history of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, N. J., has been a matter of discussion and consideration over a long period of time, during which much material has been accumulated for use therein.

It seems highly appropriate, and indeed essential, that such a history be now prepared as an important part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the church which will be 100 years old on May 14, 1948, and at the request of the Session and Board of Trustees, the writer, as Clerk of the Session, has undertaken the task.

The First Presbyterian Church was by no means the first religious organization founded in the City of Bordentown, being preceded in the order named by the Friends, Mt. Zion A. M. E., Baptist, First Methodist, Episcopal, and Catholic Churches. Our brethren of the Baptist, Episcopal, and Catholic Churches have heretofore celebrated their respective 100th anniversaries, and in connection with each a history of the church celebrating has been prepared.

One hundred years seems a long time in retrospect, but when we consider that the Presbyterian Church in America was established sometime between the years 1670 and 1680, and that many individual Presbyterian Churches have been founded between that time and 1848, it makes us feel quite youthful.

It is well to say also that many histories have been prepared relating to the Presbyterian Church in America and individual Presbyterian Churches and as successive histories have been prepared, the writers have felt at liberty to draw upon the histories prepared by their predecessors for much of their material. This history will prove no exception to



the rule, as the writer has necessarily made use of information others have gathered.

A "History of the Presbyterian Church of America from its Origin until the Year 1760," written by the Rev. Richard Y. Webster, at one time pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Mauch Chunk, Pa., and published in 1857 by the Presbyterian Historical Society, is in the possession of the writer to whom it was presented by Elder William L. Wise. The fly leaf bears the autograph of Joseph Brown, Weaversville, Pa., and the date 1860. In the back of the book is a list of subscribers which includes not only the name of Joseph Brown, but still more interesting, the names of Rev. Alden Scovel, founder of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, N. J.; John Allan and John Wilson, two of the 15 incorporators; John Craig, William R. Murphy and John Watson, members of the church; and William E. Watson, a member of the congregation.

The history contains much valuable and interesting information regarding the early Presbyterian Church, but since this does not directly concern the church in Bordentown, N. J., it will not be further mentioned except in two particulars which are of general interest.

One of these refers to the religious persecution of Scotch Presbyterians in the 17th century, which resulted in the banishment or voluntary exile of many and in the imprisonment of large numbers, many of whom were finally sent to America by shiploads and sold as slaves.

The second refers to the fact that many of the banished and exiled Scots, as well as some of those sold as slaves, finally found homes in New Jersey; this accounts in part for the many Scotch names appearing on the rolls of Presbyterian Churches throughout New Jersey.

The writer also has a copy of the "History of the Old Tennent Church," Second Edition, presented to him for the Bordentown Church Library by Rev. Frank R. Symmes, the 15th pastor of Old Tennent Church and author of the book, on an occasion when he was preaching in the Bordentown Church and was entertained at the writer's home.

This history refers to the fact that the first name of Old Tennent Church was "Old Scots Church" and that among its members were included Scots who were banished or exiled at the time of the persecutions described in the "History of the Presbyterian Church in America."

Another interesting reference in this history is to an old Communion table in the church, at which, according to tradition, Rev. David Brainerd served Communion to the Indians. It will be remembered that Rev. David Brainerd was widely known in his day as a very successful missionary among the Indians of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, much of his work being done among the Indians in the vicinity of Crosswicks and Bordentown.

Under date of January 30, 1877, there appears the following entry in the minutes of the Bordentown Church Session:

"At a meeting of the Presbytery of New Brunswick held on April 25, 1848, at the Presbyterian Church in Titusville, a memorial and petition was presented by the Rev. A. Scovel, through the Rev. Henry Perkins, praying for the organization of a Presbyterian Church at Bordentown. On the motion of the Rev. Charles Hodges, D.D., the petition was granted, and the following persons appointed a committee to carry the same into effect, viz.: Rev. Henry Perkins, Rev. John Hall, D.D., and Rev. Daniel Deurelle.

This committee met at Bordentown on the 14th day of May, 1848, and proceeded in due form to organize the first Presbyterian Church of Bordentown with the following persons: On profession of faith, John Wilson, Agnes Wilson, Mary Wilson, and John Jordan; on certificate from other churches, John Allan, Margaret K. Allan, Margaret Thomas, Mary Ann Mathlen, Mary Monroe, Janet Baird, Margaret Baird, Amos Baird, Elizabeth B. Scovel, Alfred B. Seymour, and Mrs. Seymour. At the same time John Allan was installed as ruling elder, having been previously ordained in Scotland.

The Rev. A. Scovel, who was principal of a classical

school in Bordentown, became the stated supply, and continued to serve the church in connection with his school until the close of the year 1861. From this time until May, 1863, the church remained without a stated ministry.

Soon after the church was organized, the work of securing a house of worship was undertaken and accomplished by the indefatigable and self-sacrificing labors and wise and skillful management of Mr. Scovel. When the house was completed and occupied by the congregation it was entirely free from debt. The more important results of the faithful work of this venerable and beloved servant of God is shown in the addition of one hundred and thirty-three to the members of the church, including those with whom it was at first constituted.

In May, 1863, the Rev. O. H. Hazard began to labor as stated supply, and continued until September, 1865. During this period there were added on profession fourteen, and on certificate twenty-four. From the date last mentioned until the following May, the Session procured casual supplies.

In February, 1866, the congregation undertook, after sixteen years of hard struggle for existence, to settle its first pastor. Accordingly, a meeting was held, and a unanimous call was made for the pastoral services of the Rev. Joseph Greenleaf, Jr., who was installed by the Presbytery of Burlington, May 8, 1866. This pleasant pastorate continued until March, 1871. During these five years, there were added to the church twenty-five on profession, and on certificate thirty-seven. It was also during this pastorate, encouraged by a brighter prospect of success, and the apparent necessity of a more commodious house of worship and in a more eligible location, that the congregation determined to sell their church building and grounds and erect a new edifice on Farnsworth Avenue near Burlington Street.

When the new church was completed, two facts were clearly ascertained: First, the congregation was in pos-



session of a beautiful house of worship; and, second, there remained unprovided for a debt of \$12,000. This latter fact resulted in a sheriff's sale, the title-deed passing to the Bordentown Banking Company. Through the active benevolence of Mr. George S. Green and the late Joseph G. Brearley, ruling elders in two of the Trenton churches, the property was purchased and the title held by them for the benefit of the church and congregation, pending an effort to redeem the property. As a basis for this effort three bequests had been made to the congregation, which together with other contributions amounted to about \$3,000. The Rev. R. Taylor, D.D., who had for several months been acting as stated supply, now undertook to obtain further contributions for the purpose of repurchasing the property and paying the claims which had been cut off by the sheriff's sale. The efforts of Dr. Taylor, aided by the Board of Church Erection, were successful, and now the congregation "sits under its own vine and fig-tree, without any to molest or make it afraid." During all the trouble of the congregation it was never deprived of the privilege of worshipping within the walls of the new edifice.

On the 5th of January, 1874, Dr. Taylor was installed as the second pastor of the church, which pastorate continued until the following October, when, at his request, the relation was dissolved. During his service, from August, 1871, to October, 1874, there were added to the church twenty on profession, and twenty-two on certificates from other churches. From the date last mentioned the church remained without a pastor until the September following (1875), when the Rev. Leigh Richmond

Smith was installed as its third pastor. This relation, at his own request, was dissolved on the 8th of November, 1876, and now the church is without a pastor. During the pastorate of Mr. Smith there were added on profession twenty-five, and on certificate thirteen. The whole number added to the church since it was organized is three hundred and thirteen. The present number is one hundred and

fifteen. It should also be stated that during all these twenty-nine years there has existed a well-organized Sunday School, which has proved an efficient agency of the church."

This history was printed in the Bordentown Register of August 31, 1877, and again in the "History of Burlington and Mercer Counties, New Jersey, with Biographical Sketches of many of their Pioneers and Prominent Men," by Major E. M. Woodward and John F. Hagaman, published in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1883.

Upon checking, the history has been found accurate except for two omissions which have been corrected, viz.: the exact date of the meeting of the Presbytery of New Brunswick at Titusville, N. J. in April, 1848, has been supplied from the minutes of that Presbytery by its Stated Clerk, and the name of Margaret Baird has been inserted in its proper place among the organizers as shown in the first entry appearing in the first Session minute book of the church.

With these corrections, the history prepared by Elder Murphy, then Clerk of the Session, will be accepted, with some additions, as covering the period from May 14, 1848 until January 30, 1877; and the narrative from this point will be based upon original entries in the Minute Books of the Session and Board of Trustees; records of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Pa.; of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, and of the American Bible Society, both of New York City; information furnished by the librarian of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions of the Congregationalist Church, Boston, Mass.; descendants or friends of parties mentioned; and from personal knowledge of individuals and events extending over many years.

## EARLY PRESBYTERY AND NEIGHBORING CHURCH CONNECTIONS

In reading over the old church minutes and old records from other sources, considerable additional information has been disclosed, which for some reason was not included in Elder Murphy's history, but seems worthy of recording at this time.

As day after day the writer has pored over ancient records, many of which were scarcely legible due to poor penmanship and faded ink, he has been puzzled by references indicating that the Bordentown Church has not always been a part of Monmouth Presbytery. This led to further research which disclosed the fact that, like the counties of New Jersey, the Presbyteries of New York, Philadelphia, and New Jersey have changed their boundaries on more than one occasion until they have reached their present status where there is no overlapping of the Presbyteries of the three states as was the case years ago.

New Brunswick became a separate Presbytery in 1738, and when the Bordentown church was organized in 1848, it became a part of New Brunswick Presbytery. In 1849, Burlington Presbytery was formed and took over the Bordentown Church.

In 1859, Monmouth Presbytery was formed, and in 1870, Monmouth and Burlington Presbyteries were combined as Monmouth Presbytery. The Bordentown Church has therefore belonged successively to three Presbyteries, viz.: New Brunswick, Burlington, and Monmouth.

To Rev. Alden C. Scovel is ascribed the honor of founding the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, and rightly



so, but long before the coming of Mr. Scovel there was a Presbyterian element of considerable strength at and near Bordentown, and the way had been well prepared for founding a separate church at that point.

The history of the Allentown Presbyterian Church, prepared by Rev. George Swain, pastor of that church for many years, records certain facts pertinent to the Bordentown church.

From 1756 to about 1766, Rev. Charles McKnight, who was pastor of Presbyterian Churches at Allentown and Cranbury and resided at the latter point, devoted about one-fourth of his time to the Bordentown Presbyterians. Later a Presbyterian Church was organized at Nottingham (now Hamilton Square), and a change in arrangements was made so that the churches at Allentown and Nottingham were in charge of one pastor. Still later, the Allentown and Nottingham churches became strong enough to maintain separate pastors. Throughout all of these changes, the Bordentown Presbyterians were not neglected, and when the time came for the organization of the Bordentown church, we find the Rev. Henry Perkins, pastor of the Allentown church, present at the meeting of the Presbytery of New Brunswick held at Titusville on April 25, 1848, in company with Rev. Alden C. Scovel, and the minutes of the Bordentown Church Session state that the memorial for organizing the Bordentown Church was presented by Rev. Alden C. Scovel through Rev. Henry Perkins.

In view of the foregoing, the strong feeling of fellowship that has existed for very many years between the Bordentown and Allentown churches is readily understandable. On more than one occasion in years past, the pastor of the Allentown church has acted as Moderator of the Session of the Bordentown Church, this occurring at times when the Bordentown Church was without a pastor.

On February 3, 1893, a Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor was organized in the Bordentown Church. A delegation from a similar society in the Allentown Church came to the Bordentown Church and assisted in the organization.

As years passed, the Allentown society dwindled in membership and finally passed out of existence. About twenty years ago, the Bordentown society was invited to Allentown to assist in the reorganization of the Allentown society, and gladly did so.

The writer is particularly interested in this part of the history, because his ancestors for generations past were connected with the Presbyterian Churches at Allentown, Cranbury and Hamilton Square, and lie buried in the cemeteries connected with these churches.

## THE OFFICERS

In the history prepared by Elder Murphy, a concise account is given of the organization of the church. Following this, which occurred on May 14, 1848, it became necessary to elect a Board of Trustees to assume charge of the temporal affairs of the church. Accordingly at a congregational meeting held June 18, 1848, the following persons were elected as Trustees; Mahlon Hutchinson, Jr., Peter H. Kester, Robert C. Hutchinson, John Whiteman, Henry Vandeleur, Charles H. Miller, and Isaac Dripps.

At that time, it was required that the newly elected Trustees subscribe individually to an Oath of Office entered in the Minute Book of the Board of Trustees and thereafter file with the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Burlington a certificate to the effect that they had subscribed to such oath and taken the name of the "Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown."

Of especial interest is the Oath of Office taken by Isaac Dripps, a copy of which follows:

I, Isaac Dripps, do swear that I will support the constitution of the United States: so help me God.

I do sincerely profess and swear that I do and will bear true faith and allegiance to the government established in this State, under the authority of the people: so help me God.

And I do swear that I will faithfully execute the trust

reposed in me as trustee of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown according to the best of my abilities and understanding: so help me God.

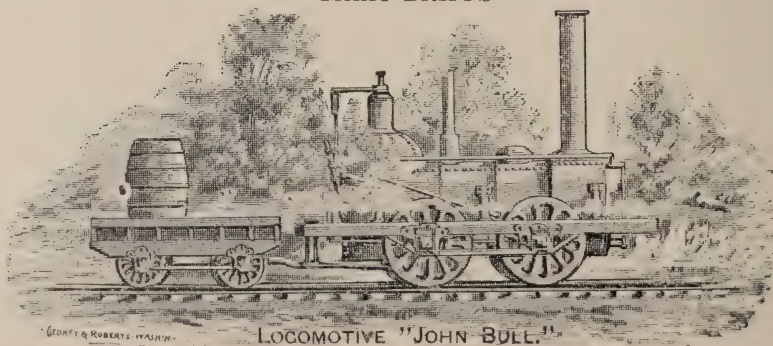
Sworn and subscribed this	)	
28th day of June A D 1848 before	)	
me Edward Robbins	)	Isaac Dripps
Justice of the peace of the	)	
County of Burlington	)	

The name of Isaac Dripps is closely associated with the first mile of railroad constructed in New Jersey in 1831 by the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company and with the "Johnny Bull" engine, the first engine to operate on the new road.



A portrait of Isaac Dripps and a picture of the engine are shown below. The office and shops of the Camden and Amboy Railroad were located at Bordentown and many of its officers and employees were Presbyterians.

ISAAC DRIPPS





A copy of the certificate filed with the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas is inscribed in the Minute Book of the Board of Trustees signed by each of the Trustees who took the Oath of Office. A copy of this is shown below.

The Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown (Certificate of):

To the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Burlington—

Whereas the religious society and congregation usually meeting for public worship at Bordentown, in the County of Burlington, did assemble at their said place of meeting on the eighteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, ten days previous notice of the time and purpose of assembling having been given by an advertisement set up in open view at such place of meeting, and when so assembled did by plurality of voices of such of the said society or congregation as were present, elect the subscribers of the said society and congregation to be trustees of the same and before entering upon the duties of our office, we did severally take and subscribe before a justice of the peace of the County aforesaid, in which most of us reside, the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, the oath of allegiance prescribed by law and an oath for the faithful execution of the trust reposed in us according to the best of our abilities and understanding according to the form of the statute in case made and provided.

Now, therefore, we the said Trustees do hereby certify that we have taken upon ourselves the name of the Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown and do request this our certificate to be by you recorded according to law.

Witness our hands and seals this twenty-eight day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight.

JOHN WHITEMAN  
ISAAC DRIPPS  
H. S. VANDELEAR (SEAL)  
MAHLON HUTCHINSON, JR.  
CHARLES H. MILLER  
P. H. KESTER

Recorded October 27th, A.D. 1849, Corporation Book A.  
JOS. F. BURR,  
Clerk.

It will be noted that the name of Robert C. Hutchinson does not appear on the certificate, as he failed to sign the Oath of Office and therefore was disqualified as a member of the Board.

At the organization meeting held May 14, 1848, the Session Minutes state that John Allan was elected the first Elder; Alfred B. Seymour, the second Elder; and that Walter Davidson and George Deworth were elected the first Deacons.

At the first meeting of the Session held June 24, 1848, Al-

fred B. Seymour was elected as the first Clerk of Session. At this meeting, the Deacons met with the Elders. This practice was continued for several years, then discontinued with no explanation in the minutes.

At a meeting the Session held August 11, 1854, the Session determined that a new Board of Trustees should be elected, three from the Session and four from the congregation, and that thereafter, an election should be held annually. In the early days of the church, the minutes indicate that the Board of Trustees assumed duties now considered improper for them to perform, such as regulating the use of the church building and supervision of the church choir. In the minutes of the Board of Trustees of August 11, 1852 they went so far as to rule that no part of the church should be used as a singing school but that the gallery might be used by the "quoir" for practice.

These irregularities were bound to cause friction but in course of time were corrected. No one would consider now having the Deacons meet with the Session, the Board of Trustees regulate the use of the church building or supervise the choir, nor would the congregation wish to have the Session regulate the number or constitution of the Board of Trustees.

Following the organization of the church on May 14, 1848, the church records, which have been preserved intact since that date, indicate that the affairs of the church were handled much as they are today. Elders, Deacons, and Trustees were elected at annual congregational meetings. The Session and Board of Trustees maintained separate Minute Books and recorded with more or less care the business transacted. The minutes, however, are not always clear as to the final disposition made of matters much debated at previous meetings and left open for future action.

At first, the number in each of the three groups of officials seems to have been fixed at will by the congregation. The terms of office for Elders and Deacons were indeterminate, and the Trustees were elected each year. Eventually the terms for Elders and Trustees were made three years each

under a rotary system by which one third went out of office each year and the number in each group is made such as to be divisible by three. This system is followed today. The terms of office for Deacons is still indeterminate.

The first entry in the first Session Book of the church cannot fail to be pleasing to the ladies of the church. It states that the election of officials at the first congregational meeting, held May 14, 1838, was "by a vote of the male and female members of the church." This clearly indicates that the Bordentown Church from its very beginning has favored "Womens Suffrage."

## THE MUSIC

In the early days of the Presbyterian Church, particularly in Scotland, the use of musical instruments in the church services was forbidden and the singing of Psalms by the congregation, led by a chorister with a tuning fork to give the pitch, was the general practice.

Nearly all of the original 15 organizers of the Bordentown Church were of Scotch descent. Some were members of the Church of Scotland before coming to America and it is quite probable that the old Scotch ideas as to the musical part of the church services were carried over into the Bordentown Church for a time, until the influx of new members of German and French descent caused a modification. At any rate, as early as January 2, 1852, a committee on music was appointed and on April 1, 1857, a congregational meeting was called to consider the subject of sacred music in the church, and whether or not the church should have a choir. From this time on, the musical part of the church service assumed more and more importance, frequent references appearing in the records relative to the music used, the choir, chorister or choir leader.

There have been times since the organization of the church when it has been difficult to secure a competent chorister or choir leader but always the problem has been solved,

sometimes in very unexpected ways. An entry in the Minutes of the Session under date of August 12, 1855 authorizes the employment of a sexton and chorister. A later entry specifies that he shall receive the munificent sum of \$8.00 a quarter for his services as sexton. No mention is made of payment for services as chorister. The man selected at this time was a cobbler by trade, had a strong bass voice, some little knowledge of music, and no doubt led the congregational singing acceptably.

He loved music and when a choir was finally organized, became a member and remained so until a very old man. In his latter days, both his body and voice became feeble, but he was still to be found in his place with the choir, doing his best to keep up with the other members in the singing and dozing peacefully during the sermon, always in full view of the congregation. With his wife, he had become a member of the church by Certificate on August 6, 1848.

Later choir leaders were invariably persons with good voices and considerable knowledge of music. Some, indeed, had trained voices and the choir has been noted over the years for its excellent performance and faithful service. Among its members have been many with really fine voices, a considerable proportion having had special training. One of the members, who has long since passed away, caused at times considerable amusement of a friendly character. He had a particularly fine bass voice but one that was untrained and, in addition to this, the owner could not read music. His voice was so powerful that when given full vent he could drown out the whole choir. The effect, at times, can be readily imagined.

His occupation frequently kept him away from his home church during the spring and summer months. At such times he would be living in a railroad boarding car, usually at or near some small village, and he invariably attended services in the nearest Protestant Church and joined in the congregational singing. When the hymns were familiar, as they usually were, he sang with great vigor and enjoyed recounting the effect later on when he returned home.



In 1884, after a great deal of preliminary discussion a new pipe organ was installed. This pipe organ, which was the first one installed in the City of Bordentown, is still giving good service in the location where it was originally installed. There was little or no opposition to the purchase of the organ. There was much divergence of opinion as to the most suitable location for its installation and also as to whether the Session or Board of Trustees should decide the matter. The location was finally decided by the Board of Trustees by a vote of four to three. Immediately following this decision, the following most unusual resolution was adopted:

“Resolved: That no litigation be undertaken by the Board of Trustees or any member thereof in the name of the Board in reference to the location of the organ.”

When the organ was installed, it covered a door leading to the lecture room and this door was walled up. Provision was made for the choir as now located on a slightly raised platform without enclosure. The railing now in use was installed in 1888 at the expense of the choir. Two other locations were considered for the organ, one in the balcony, the other on the platform behind the pulpit which was then located at the middle front of the platform instead of at the side as it is at present.

The first performance of the new organ was quite an event. An admission fee was charged and the church was well filled. A blind organist from Philadelphia named Wood played most beautifully and the audience was well pleased.

## THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING

The first church building was constructed on the corner of Park and Second Streets in 1851. The present church building was ready for occupancy in 1869. The first meeting in the new church was held in the chapel on January 3, 1869, and the church was dedicated on January 15, 1869.

When the new church building was ready for occupancy, the old one was moved to a lot on the opposite side of Park Street, now occupied by a part of the Rogers Garage adjoining the present home of the Knights of Columbus. Here it was used for years as an opera house, staging such shows as "East Lynn," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Hawkshaw the Detective," "The Danites," and presenting minstrels, some of whom later became famous. The entrance fee was thirty-five cents, quite a sum for those days, and it was not always easy for the writer to raise it, much as he enjoyed the exciting events portrayed on the stage. After the building was removed, the lot was sold to Captain George B. Raymond, one of the Church Trustees, who was elected as such on October 31, 1849, shortly after the church was organized.

One of the first problems that confronted the first congregation was that of raising the necessary funds to meet its running expenses. The first method adopted was quite generally used by churches at that time, viz.: renting the pews, called "slips" in the old minutes. The pastor was first permitted to select a pew for his family. Then a certain number of pews were reserved for free persons, also for the colored persons. A minimum price was fixed on all remaining pews which were then rented by auction held on an evening designated in advance. The pew rental system with modifications was carried on until 1879 when it was discontinued and the envelope system for raising funds was adopted. Later the pew rental system was revived but was finally discontinued October 1, 1906.

There are very few persons living today who remember the original church building even after it was converted into

an opera house. As far as known, no photographs of it exist. However, Mrs. James D. Magee has made a quite accurate drawing of the old building, which is here reproduced with her consent. This was first used in the book "Bordentown 1682-1932" by her husband James D. Magee, published at the time of the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the City of Bordentown in 1932. Mrs. Magee furnished the illustrations for that book.



## THE PRESENT CHURCH PROPERTY

When the present church building was first constructed a high picket fence extended across the whole front of the church property except directly in front of the two entrances to the church and an iron lamp post supporting an oil lamp stood at the curb. Those were horse and buggy days, so a carriage platform stood beside the driveway inside the yard on the south side of the church building, and two wagon sheds of considerable size stood in the rear of the church lot, one in the rear of the church building, the other in the offset owned by the church in the rear of the lot where the office of Dr. Mendenhall now stands.

The lot on the north side of the church building was once low and rather swampy. A well of considerable depth was located on the north side of the church building just inside of the present driveway gates. A wooden walk led to the entrance to the lecture room and a brick sidewalk about six feet wide was in front of the church property. A beautiful steeple surmounted the north tower.

The interior of the church has been changed considerably since it was first built. The pipe organ has been added and also the low platform with railing, used by the choir. The high platform at the front of the auditorium has been enlarged and the pulpit moved from the center to the side still remaining at the front of the platform. Steps have been added at the front of the platform. A few pews have been removed in the front and in the rear. The earliest fresco recalled by the writer in use about 1880 was a beautiful one of Grecian design.

The church was redecorated in 1894 at a cost of \$1,385.09 and again in 1924, at a cost of \$2,732.30.

Improvements in 1924 including the fresco cost about \$5,000.00. Rededication services with Communion were held September 7, 1924, when the improvements were completed.

The manse was renovated and improved in 1920 at a cost of about \$1,500.00. Steam heat was installed in the church in



1933 at a cost of \$1,718.00, replacing two hot air heaters which had been in use for many years.

Mention is made elsewhere in this history of improvements made by the Board of Trustees with funds raised by the enthusiastic efforts of the Women's Aid Society, Sunday School, and Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. Among these, are included the removal of the old wooden fence and the substitution of the present iron one gracefully curved on the two sides of the church with no fence in front of the building; the substitution of the present concrete walk for the old wooden one leading to the entrance to the lecture room; the substitution of the present concrete sidewalk for the old brick one in front of the church property; filling the old well and filling in the low side yard. Incidentally, the concrete sidewalk in front of the church is the second concrete sidewalk laid in the City of Bordentown. The Trustees later removed the wagon sheds and lamp post. Still later, on September 14, 1914, it was found necessary to remove the steeple, which had been struck by lightning on a number of



occasions. In removing the steeple, the Trustees were assured that no damage would be done to the church or adjoining properties. The steeple-jack stated that it would fall lengthwise in the church yard on the north side of the church and it did just that. It was felled with an ax just as an experienced woodman would fell a tree. A picture of the church before removal of the steeple is on the preceding page.

Heading the list of original organizers of the church appear the names of John Allan and Margaret K. Allan, parents of Robert K. Allan, and grandparents of Miss Jane Allan and Miss Ellen Allan.

The Session Minutes of May 14, 1848, state that John Allan, having been an Elder in Scotland, was elected as the first Elder in the Bordentown Church. He served in this capacity until July 25, 1857, when he resigned as he stated "on account of political feeling in the church." His death is entered in the church records without date.

Robert K. Allan became a member of the Bordentown Church by confession of faith on October 15, 1869 and served it faithfully until his death on January 2, 1902. He served as Deacon from February 13, 1876 until his death and as Trustee from July 8, 1869 until October 17, 1888.

Miss Jane Allan became a member of the Bordentown Church on February 1, 1878, and Miss Ellen Allan on February 27, 1890, both by confession of faith. Both were very active in the work of the church. Miss Ellen Allan was church organist from September 14, 1896 until May 5, 1935, serving most of this time without compensation, and was teacher of the Beginners' Department of the Sunday School for many years.

Of Margaret K. Allan, wife of John Allan, the church records contain this unusual note after the entry of her death which occurred on December 25, 1869, "a true Christian."

James Allan, brother of John Allan, was elected an Elder in the Bordentown Church on April 25, 1849, and served as such until September 2, 1855. He died on October 26, 1871. He, too, had been an Elder in the church of Scotland before coming to the United States.

The Allan family resided at White Hill for many years, as did many other early Presbyterians. An entry in the Session minutes of March 29, 1874 states that the Bordentown Church conducted monthly preaching services at White Hill during most of the year.

At the front of the church stands today a beautiful Baptismal Font which bears a tablet reading: "In memory of Elder John Allan and his family, who served this church from its foundation. Given by Ellen Allan 1928."

### FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

As stated elsewhere in this history, the membership of the church when Rev. Alden C. Scovel terminated his service as Stated Supply at the close of 1861 was 133 and the congregation was occupying its new church building on Park Street entirely free of debt.

When Rev. Joseph Greenleaf Jr. was called as the first pastor in 1866, the church membership had become reduced to 59, the amount raised during the year for congregational purposes was but \$620.00 and for other purposes \$184.00. At the close of his pastorate in 1871, the church membership was 72, the amount raised during the year for congregational purposes was \$1,235.00 and for other purposes \$1,266.47. The congregation at this time was occupying its new church building on Farnsworth Avenue and struggling with a large debt. Shortly after this time, the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company Shops were removed from Bordentown, taking with them a considerable number of the church members who had been employed in the shops.

The burden of debt then became too great for the congregation to carry and a sheriff's sale resulted in a transfer of title to the church property to the Bordentown Banking Company. From that company George S. Green and Joseph G. Brearley, Ruling Elders in two of Trenton's Presbyterian Churches, purchased the property and carried it until the congregation could redeem it.

Rev. Rufus Taylor was called to the Bordentown Church as Stated Supply at the close of the pastorate of Mr. Greenleaf and through his intelligent and energetic efforts, title to the church property was regained and all debts cancelled by the sheriff's sale were revived and satisfied.

In the minutes of the Board of Trustees dated October 13, 1873, appears the following statement of an accounting rendered at that time in connection with settlement of the church debt:

Creditors relinquished .....	\$4,612.63	
Fair, concert and reading .....	669.55	
Raised by Dr. Taylor .....	7,195.58	
Contributed by members .....	277.00	
Legacy—Mrs. Maria Voorhees ..	1,000.00	\$13,754.76

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Other entries indicate that complete settlement involved the payment of a total of over \$15,000.00 and that a legacy of \$500.00 received on September 14, 1871 from the estate of Emily P. Walker, and one of \$1,000.00 received on September 29, 1874, from the estate of Henrietta Ellis were used in connection with the settlement.

It is highly probable that a payment of \$500.00 made December 2, 1873, by Angus N. Macpherson in the purchase of pew No. 42 was also used in clearing the church debt. The deed for this pew, which is in the possession of the writer, is a unique document, three and one-half pages in length, properly acknowledged and duly recorded in the office of the County Clerk, at Mount Holly. It provides that the conveyance is to Angus N. Macpherson, his heirs and assigns forever. The canny Scot also caused to be inserted in the deed a clause to the effect that he and his heirs forever shall have "a right of way from the entrance of said church property to the said pew No. 42" and their title to such pew No. 42 and its appurtenances including right of way shall forever be defended.

By virtue of the deed mentioned, the writer's children and grandchildren expect to occupy said pew No. 42 at the church services to be held during the 100th anniversary cele-



bration and to use the right of way from the church entrance to the pew. The church authorities are warned not to interfere! A small brass tablet has been placed on the end of the pew to identify it.

It seems a far cry from the Bordentown Church to Culloden Moor near Inverness, Scotland, yet there is a connection. The owner of pew No. 42 was Angus N. Macpherson who was born at Cluny, Invernesshire, in the highlands of Scotland and became a member of the Bordentown Church on April 29, 1874, by certificate from the Third Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. He became president of its Board of Trustees on November 13, 1874, and held that office until his death.

He was a lineal descendant of that Angus Macpherson of Cluny, Invernesshire, who supported the Stuart claim to the combined thrones of England and Scotland and thereby lost his estates. Angus and his clan fought for Prince Charles, the Young Pretender, at the Battle of Culloden Moor in 1746 and when the battle was lost Angus shared with the prince a cave in a highland mountain until the prince could escape to France. History records the name of Macpherson at Invernesshire as far back as the year 1200.

## GIFTS AND LEGACIES

Mention will be found throughout this narrative of various gifts or legacies received by the church where it seemed best to refer to them in connection with biographies of the donors, or with outstanding events in the history of the church. Even though repetition will occur in so doing, a list of all gifts or legacies which the church has received and of which the writer has found definite record is given below.

Nov. 13, 1854—From Edward A. Stevens and wife—deed for building lot on the corner of Fourth Street and Delaware Avenue, White Hill (now Fieldsboro), to be held in trust by the Bordentown Church until such time as a Presby-

- terian Congregation may desire to use it as site for a church.
- September 14, 1871—Legacy—from Emily P. Walker \$500.00
- April 8, 1872—Legacy—from Mrs. Maria Voorhees..\$1,000.00
- Dec. 1, 1873—Purchase of Pew No. 42—Angus N. Macpherson ..... \$500.00
- Sept. 29, 1874—Legacy—from Henrietta Ellis .....\$1,000.00
- July 11, 1882—From Mahlon Hutchinson and wife— deed for building lot on north side of church.
- Nov. 11, 1893—From Mahlon Hutchinson and wife—Deed for Manse, No. 433 Farnsworth Avenue.
- Sept. 28, 1896—Legacy—from Robert Julien. Income to be used for care of cemetery lot and pastor's salary ..... \$500.00
- Jan. 21, 1909—Legacy—from Mrs. Catherine Pancoast .....\$2,000.00
- Oct. 14, 1910—Legacy—from Mrs. Eliza G. Carslake..\$1,000.00
- Mar. 24, 1914—Legacy—from Harmon Yerkes. Income to be used for maintenance of the church property .....\$2,000.00
- Dec. 24, 1921—Deed of Trust to Bordentown Banking Company—from G. W. Swift, Jr., 150 shares P.R.R. Co. stock. Income to be paid to church.
- Nov. 29, 1936—Legacy—from Thomas Coundit used for purchase of hymnals ..... \$100.00
- July 29, 1940—Legacy—from Mrs. Amanda Hendrickson ..... \$392.49
- Communion table and stand—given by Trustee Walter Robbins in memory of his mother, Mrs. Emmeline Robbins, a faithful member for 44 years.
- Baptismal font—given by Miss Ellen Allan in memory of Elder John Allan and family.
- Pulpit Bible marker and cross—given by the Social Order of Service, now merged with the Women's Service Guild.
- Pulpit flag—given by H. Norman Coundit in memory of his father, Harry Coundit.
- Pulpit flag—given by Thomas Coundit in memory of his sister, Miss Elizabeth Coundit.

On numerous occasions, special gifts of rather large amounts have been made by members of the congregation, when the church had urgent need for them, but these are not listed in the minutes in a way to be easily identified.

Edward A. Stevens was not a member of the Bordentown Church but was evidently deeply interested in religious matters. Not only did he donate a lot for a Presbyterian Church in White Hill but also one for a Methodist Church and one for a Baptist Church. Buildings have been erected on the other two lots. He was a member of the famous family so deeply interested in the Camden and Amboy Railroad.

Of Emily P. Walker, the only data the writer has been able to find is contained in the Minute Book of the Session, where it is stated that she became a member of the Bordentown Church on June 7, 1862 by certificate from the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown, Pa., and died in 1871.

Of Mrs. Maria Voorhees and Henrietta Ellis no information whatever has been found. They were not members of the Bordentown Church, but were probably interested members of the congregation. Only members are listed on the church rolls.

Of Mrs. Catherine Pancoast, the church records state that she became a member of the Bordentown Church on May 2, 1863 by certificate from the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown, Pa., and transferred her membership on December 29, 1872 to the North U. P. Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, Pa.

The lot on which the present church building stands was purchased April 1, 1868 from Emily Pancoast, and in connection with the sale Mrs. Catherine Pancoast surrendered certain dower rights in the property. She died at Philadelphia, Pa., early in January, 1908. No further information has been found.

Of Mrs. Elizabeth G. Carslake the writer has most pleasant memories. She became a member of the Bordentown Church on March 4, 1882 by certificate from the Second Presbyterian Church of Rahway, N. J., and remained a faithful member until her death in 1910.

She was a regular attendant at the church services when her physical condition would permit, and was a consistent and liberal contributor not only to the church but also to many other benevolent causes. As a small boy, the writer at times would be employed to deliver groceries from one of the local stores. On many occasions the deliveries were made to particularly needy families at the expense of Mrs. Carslake who specified that it was unnecessary to mention the donor.

She was particularly interested in the Sunday School and the writer had a standing invitation to call upon her and keep her posted as to the work of the school and its special needs. At the termination of such a call, she would repair to a nearby closet, remove a teapot from an upper shelf and contribute what she considered suitable, always a liberal sum. She always stated that the money she contributed was not hers, but the Lord's. It was her regular practice to place one-tenth of her income in the teapot for the Lord and use it in His work. Her final remark always was: "Come back if more is needed."

Of Harmon Yerkes, the writer can also speak from personal acquaintance.

Mr. Yerkes became a member of the Bordentown Church on March 3, 1898, and continued a member until his death in February, 1914, at an advanced age.

As a young man he conducted a very prosperous pork business in Bordentown and became involved in financial enterprises with Jay Cook which finally resulted in his acceptance from Cook of land in North Dakota in settlement of Cook's debt. He moved to North Dakota and became a successful wheat grower on a large scale. Eventually his ranch became the site of the city of Fargo, North Dakota, and he returned to Bordentown to spend the rest of his days.

Mr. Yerkes was an ardent believer in the cause of temperance and a very liberal contributor to that cause. He was reported to have contributed \$10,000.00 at one time. Before going west, he was a warm personal friend of Father Joseph Biggio, then pastor of St. Mary's Church at Bordentown, and



both used their utmost influence to promote the cause of temperance in Bordentown.

Mr. Yerkes held a mortgage for \$6,000.00 on the Trinity M. E. Church at Bordentown for a considerable time. The church was struggling along but had not been able to pay off the mortgage or complete work on the auditorium. For some years its services were held in the chapel, now used as a meeting place for the Sunday School and Prayer Meeting. Mr. Yerkes offered to cancel his mortgage if the congregation would raise the necessary funds to complete the work on the auditorium, without assistance from any "rum seller." His challenge was accepted and the mortgage was burned with impressive ceremony. Mr. Yerkes also gave the Trinity Church the beautiful memorial window at the front of the church in memory of his first wife.

George W. Swift, Jr. came from a family long and closely connected with the Bordentown Church. His parents became members on October 14, 1870, by certificate, from the Southwestern Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. He became a member by confession of faith on January 30, 1879, as did two brothers and three sisters at other times, and retained his membership and interest in the church and its work until his death on February 24, 1942.

He was of a genial, friendly disposition and very liberal not only in his support of his church but also of any benevolent object he considered worthy of support. A notable instance was a contribution of \$10,000.00 made by him and his wife toward the construction of the beautiful building that shelters Bordentown's Public Library.

Mr. Swift was the founder of George W. Swift, Jr., Inc., a successful business enterprise at Bordentown, which is still in operation with rather a large number of employees. Its business is the manufacture of special machinery for use in the paper industry.

He was widely known as an inventor and held hundreds of patents.

The writer and he were life-long friends and loved to get

together and talk over old times. He frankly admitted that as a boy, hard manual labor did not appeal to him and he used his inventive genius whenever possible to ease his tasks. Two outstanding instances of this kind he liked to talk about. In his boyhood days the family, like many others at that time, heated the home by burning wood. Use of a hand driven saw was hard work, so a windmill was rigged up to replace the muscular labor.

His father was engaged in the transportation of river sand by boat and it was necessary to keep a hand pump going most of the time. Again a windmill was made to do the work, while the boy lay back comfortably on the sand and enjoyed the scenery.

He was a fine citizen and a good friend.

The earliest record of the Coundit family on the church books is an entry stating that Miss Elizabeth Coundit became a member by confession of faith on February 2, 1876. The older members of the congregation will remember her as a quiet, unassuming, ever faithful member always ready to do her part in the Master's service. H. Norman Coundit is now a member of the Board of Trustees. He became a member by confession of faith on April 2, 1916. His father, Harry Coundit, and uncle, Thomas Coundit, were members of the congregation.

Mrs. Amanda Hendrickson became a member of the Bordentown Church on January 13, 1935 by certificate from the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, N. J., and died on November 14, 1938. Her career in the Bordentown Church was brief, but her interest in its work was great.

Most of the present members of the congregation will remember Walter Robbins and his wife, May E. Robbins. Many of the older members will also remember his father, Aaron Robbins, and his mother, Emmeline Robbins. All of these were closely associated with the Bordentown Church. Both Walter Robbins and his father served the church as Trustees for years, and his mother and wife were greatly interested in the work of the church. Walter became a member of the church on confession of faith on February 3, 1881, and remained a member until his death on May 6, 1940.

Information regarding Angus N. Macpherson, Mahlon Hutchinson, Miss Ellen Allan, and the Social Order of Service at considerable length will be found at other places in this narrative where it seemed appropriate to include it.

## OUR COUNTRY'S WARS

At the time of the founding of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, the wars of the Revolution and 1812 were becoming but dim memories, the Mexican War was just over, and except for occasional Indian disturbances, the country was at peace.

No one dreamed that within the short space of 14 years, there would come a terrible period of internal strife, this to be followed by three international wars, all within the first 100 years of the life of the church.

Nevertheless, the wars did occur, shaking our country to its very foundations, and taking its young men and women by millions from the paths of peace and productive industry to the paths of war and destruction. The Bordentown Church was called upon to do its part and quickly responded.

Below are the names of the young men and women from the church who have served their country in its wars that have occurred since the founding of the church.

### CIVIL WAR

Colonel William R. Murphy  
Major George B. Raymond  
Captain Philip Shangle

James B. Scott  
Charles L. Willard  
Harry Brown

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Clarence D. Tebo

### WORLD WAR NO. 1

Rev. Roberts Williams, Chaplain  
Harold A. Bechtel  
\*Ervin V. Hamilton  
Edward Lawrence

Clifford Lewis  
George Parcels  
Edward B. Schwoebel

\* Ervin V. Hamilton was the first young man from Bordentown whose life was lost in this war. Ervin V. Hamilton Post of the American Legion, Bordentown, is named in his honor.

## WORLD WAR No. 2

Norman Abrams	Kenneth Laird
Byron Beans	Jack Lamont
Harold Bechtel	William Lamont
Raymond Bozarth	William Leaverton
John Chafey	Walter Matlack
Durant K. Charleroy	Richard D. McCord
Douglas E. Clark	Robert McCord
James Dancer	Walter D. McCord, Sr.
Kenneth Dunlevy	Walter D. McCord, Jr.
Charles Eichenger	Walter Meench
Frank Eichenger	Calvin Moon
Edwin Friedrich	George Parcels
Albert Foultz	W. Wilson Parcels
Elmer Foultz	Lewis M. Parker
Ellis Grosskreuz	Mark Patterson
Robert Grosskreuz	F. Albertus Petty
Donald G. Grove	George Purks
Henry S. Hartman	Lonnie Purks
Clifford Hepburn	Ina May Reed
Carla Heupel	Harold Rossell
George Heupel	Vernon Southard
Frank Hyatt	David Styer, Jr.
Leslie S. Hyatt	Marvin Van Arsdale
Robert Hyatt	Franklin Vondy
Lester Johnson	Harrison Vondy
Lewis F. Klein	John Winter

The service flag over the door leading from the church to the Sunday School room indicates by stars the soldiers, sailors and nurses from the church who served in World War No. 2.

While not connected with our country's wars, the following item is inserted at this point as of considerable interest. Among the early members of the church, was a highly intelligent Scotchman by the name of James Torrance, who could simply enthrall the youth of his time by his tales of high adventure in the China Sea. There he served on a light draught British gunboat engaged in the task of capturing or destroying pirate craft which sallied forth from river mouths to pounce upon their victims passing by.



## BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE

High on the list of educational institutions for which Bordentown has long been noted, appears the name of the Bordentown Military Institute. Its students are drawn from all parts of the United States and even from beyond our borders. Many of them are from Presbyterian families, and these attend the morning church service in uniform, marching to and from the church in military formation.

The old minute books of the Session contain numerous references to requests from Rev. Thompson H. Landon for the privilege of holding commencement exercises of the Institute in the church auditorium and these were always granted.

At the present time, three members of the faculty of the Institute are members of the Church Session.

These are David Styer, William L. Wise and Paul G. Hartpence.

In past years three former members of the faculty have also served as members of the Session. These were Col. William R. Murphy, Justin L. Gundy and Henry L. Holt. At one time, Rev. Roberts Williams, then pastor of the Church, was a member of the Institute faculty. Five other former members of the faculty united with the church while in Bordentown and three former students in the Presbyterian squad became clergymen. These were Paul F. Hoffman, James Watt and Joseph C. Holbrook. The last named was for a time the pastor of the Columbus, N. J. Presbyterian Church and later a missionary to India.

A group picture of the present Presbyterian squad is shown on the following page.



B.M.I. PRESBYTERIAN SQUAD

## THE PROPER SPIRIT

The First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown has always displayed a willingness to cooperate with the city authorities and other churches of the city in enterprises for the public good, and the city authorities and other churches have displayed a similar willingness.

When the city high school was destroyed by fire in 1942, the Presbyterian Church gladly offered its facilities for use of the students as did the other churches.

When the Presbyterian Church heater failed during the winter of 1943, the high school was opened for use of the Sunday School, and church services were held in the chapel of the Methodist Church.

There have been several times during the past 100 years when from lightning, fire, or other causes, one or another church has needed help.

Not only the Presbyterian, but also the Baptist, Methodist, and Episcopal Churches have at times needed a helping hand and it has always been outstretched.

The churches cooperate in Vacation Bible Schools, the recently organized Council of Churches, union evening services, union morning services during pastors' vacations, and at times when considered desirable, in union Sunday School picnics.

At one time in the history of the Presbyterian Church, no preaching service was maintained during the pastor's vacation. The present union arrangement is far better for all concerned.

Another feature that has quite recently developed in all churches of the city is the institution of midweek religious instruction. This is proving highly successful in the Presbyterian Church and doubtless in the other churches also.

On suitable occasions, Candle Light services are held in the church in the evening and these are well attended. Moving pictures of a missionary or religious character are also used in connection with the evening service and have proven effective.

The church is always willing to have its facilities used for school commencement exercises and to hold special services for lodges or other fraternal or benevolent organizations.

The quota assigned the Bordentown Church for the War Restoration Fund is \$2,921.44. The most of this has been paid, and outstanding pledges which will doubtless all be paid before this book is off the press will result in a total exceeding the assigned amount.

Each year the church meets and somewhat exceeds its rather large quota for "Benevolences" and is justly proud of this record. For years the church has designated a considerable part of its benevolence contribution to be used toward the support of Rev. Ralph Varhaug, formerly pastor of the Columbus (N. J.) Presbyterian Church, but now and for a long time past, a missionary in Brazil.

At the present time, a movement is under way for rather extensive improvements to the church building including a new kitchen, new rest room facilities and eventually enlarged Sunday School quarters.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

As well stated by Elder Murphy in the church history he prepared, from the very beginning of the existence of the church, "There has existed a well organized Sunday School, which has proved an efficient agency of the church."

References to the Sunday School in the early Minutes of the Session are meager. Evidently the Sunday School maintained separate records in the early days and these no longer exist. The records do state that the membership April 10, 1866 was 60, and in 1872 was 72. Today the membership is 85.

In 1854, a branch Sunday School was maintained at White Hill. The minutes indicate that the Sunday School over a long period of time was financed by the church. It has been self supporting now for at least 60 years, has helped the church on many occasions, and has contributed largely to missions.



At various times, it has maintained annual shares in missionary work at Point Barrow, Alaska, among the Navahoes in Arizona, the mountaineers of Tennessee and North Carolina, the Porto Ricans, the Filipinos, and the West Coast Africans. Its best work, however, has been, and still is, its success in impressing its young members with the truths of the Bible and bringing them to the point where they become members of the church on confession of faith. Many upon reaching maturity have scattered, settling at far distant points. Reports received from these indicate that the efforts of their devoted teachers in the Bordentown school have not been wasted. Two former pupils became clergymen.

There is no record of the earliest Sunday School superintendents. Probably the stated supplies or pastors so acted. Elder George H. Voorhis is recorded as Superintendent from 1869 to March 29, 1881; Trustee David R. Brown from March 29, 1881 to May 29, 1890; Elder Philip S. Scovel for a short time and after that the pastor, Rev. O. A. Kerr, took over for a considerable time. During the latter part of the pastor's incumbency, Elder Orson H. Brown assumed the duties of the position and finally was appointed Superintendent on May 2, 1901, and served in that capacity until September 30, 1945 when he retired with the title of Superintendent Emeritus. Elder Maurice Keen was appointed superintendent upon the retirement of Elder Brown and is still serving.

In April, 1940, the class of Mrs. Thomas A. Adams fitted up the south tower of the church as a very nice class room. In 1947 the Sunday School financed the construction of a fine class room in the basement, and throughout the years has assisted in making other church improvements.

A group picture of the present officers and teachers of the Sunday School and a complete list of the present members follows.





Left to right, rear row: Paul G. Hartpence, Lyle P. Carson, Mae M. Bowker, Maurice F. Keen, Orson H. Brown. Front row: Mrs. Thomas A. Adams, Mrs. Norman L. Abrams, Mrs. Charles C. Rose, Mrs. J. Carroll Newell, Mrs. Grandon R. Cole.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### OFFICERS

ORSON H. BROWN, Superintendent Emeritus  
 MAURICE F. KEEN, Superintendent  
 LYLE P. CARSON, Asst. Superintendent and Treasurer  
 MISS MAE M. BOWKER, Pianist

#### Class No. 1

MRS. J. CARROLL NEWELL, Teacher

Janet D. Bowker  
 Phyllis A. Brettell  
 Janet E. Giberson  
 Roberta A. Jobs  
 Joan D. Gilbert

Jean D. Emmons  
 Jeanne P. Layton  
 M. Phyllis Moon  
 Elizabeth A. Rose  
 Camilla E. Schwoebel

#### Class No. 2

MRS. GRANDON R. COLE, Teacher

Philip K. Anderson  
 Edward Gilbert  
 James T. Layton

John S. MacDermid  
 C. Bennett Newell  
 Charles H. Rose

**Class No. 3**

PAUL G. HARTPENCE, Teacher

Thomas E. Coundit	Edward L. King
Herbert Giberson	William M. Taylor
Robert L. Gilbert	Bernard Williams
Lawrence Gordon	William Williams
Henry Hartpence	

**Class No. 4**

MAURICE F. KEEN, Teacher

Bennett Dickson	Shirley M. Myers
Elizabeth Dyer	Shirley Moon
Lois Foster	Marie Nixon
Shirley Ann Giberson	Rosemary Taylor
Barbara M. Gordon	Rose Ulmer
Dolores L. Gordon	
Mary Anne Kiesling	

**Class No. 5**

MISS MAE E. BOWKER, Teacher

Jean Burns	Janice M. Lee
Sheila Emmons	Jean E. Ravatt
Karen Hartman	Alice Robinson
Jeanne C. Jobs	Carol L. Tantum
Mary Ann Keen	Lila C. Taylor

**Class No. 6**

LYLE P. CARSON, Teacher

James P. Emmons	Louis M. Kiesling
John W. Emmons	Robert Lennox
Ronald Gordon	Linford E. Samsel
Donald Williams	

**Class No. 7**

MRS. NORMAN L. ABRAMS, Teacher

Jacqueline A. Bowker	Paul Nixon
L. Pierce Carson, Jr.	Lonnie Purks, 3rd
Sally Ann Garrison	Doris M. Rose
Dennis Hartman	Virginia Williams
John W. Layton	

**Class No. 8 — Beginners**

MRS. CHARLES C. ROSE, Teacher

MRS. THOMAS A. ADAMS, Assistant

William N. Abrams	Leah D. Purks
Jean M. Adams	Ruth Purks
Malinda Allen	Phyllis Rossell
S. David Brettell	Timothy West
Margaret E. Burkley	Charles E. Swaim
Jill Carson	Peggy Ann Tantum
David Dyer	John West
Ronald Fagan	Lois Williams
Roy Gordon	John Wingerter
Betsy Kiesling	Susan Wingerter
Dean R. Matlack	Mary Lou Wingerter
Helen M. Purks	

## WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

The women's organizations of the church have served the church faithfully these many years, and deserve more than passing mention. In 1900, the Ladies' Mite Society appears in the minutes, followed in order by the Ladies' Aid Society (evidently the successor of the Ladies' Mite Society), Women's Missionary Society, and the Social Order of Service, the last three named being consolidated on March 29, 1942, under the name of Women's Service Guild.

It would be impossible to enumerate the many tasks performed by the consecrated women making up the organizations named. From year to year, the personnel has changed, but not the energy and efficiency with which each emergency has been met. The Coal Fund is raised each year, flowers appear on the church platform each Sunday, suppers are provided when required, money is contributed for this purpose or that, the sick are visited, visitors in the church are welcomed, and new members are made to feel at home. Truly it may be said that these ladies are at the front in every enterprise of the church. The church records are full of their activities. On April 22, 1904, it is recorded that they installed a new motor on the pipe organ, but this is only one of the many things they have done. The present pulpit Bible bears an inscription—Presented by the Social Order of Service, April 6, 1941. The silk marker in the Bible and the cross which stands on the Communion Table were also presented by these ladies.

A group picture of the present officers and a complete list of the present members follows:

### WOMEN'S SERVICE GUILD

#### OFFICERS

LILLIAN BROWN—President  
MARGARET COLE—First Vice President  
HELEN REYNOLDS—Second Vice President  
HELEN POTTER—Treasurer  
GERTRUDE KEEN—Recording Secretary  
ISABEL McNINNEY—Corresponding Secretary



Left to right: Gertrude Keen, Margaret Cole, Lillian Brown, Helen Reynolds, Isabel McNinney.

#### MEMBERS

Mary Abrams  
Dorothy Adams  
Eleanor Bebout  
Martha Berry  
Ada Bowker  
Elizabeth Bowker  
Mae Bowker  
Pearl Bozarth  
Mildred Brettell  
Mary Brettell  
Mary Louise Brown  
Charlotte Buchanan  
Helen Carson  
Elizabeth Coundit  
Gertrude Daly  
Leota Dubell  
Carrie Ehrhardt  
Anna Emmons  
Helen Evans

Rose Foultz  
Carrie Fitzgerald  
Annie Foster  
Florence Friedrich  
Marie Garrison  
Gertrude Grigg  
Marguerite Hartman  
Sadie Hartman  
Muriel Hartman  
Eleanor Hartpence  
Jennie Hartzell  
Josephine Horner  
Myrle Hyatt  
Lily Jobes  
Marion F. Keen  
Mary Kiesling  
Marion Laird  
Merle Lee  
Bertha Lieberum



Edith MacDermid  
 Isabella Meench  
 Leila Newell  
 Grace Oberholser  
 Florence Owens  
 Irene Pellett  
 Zenaide Reynolds  
 Doris Schwoebel  
 Mae Schwoebel

Evelyn S. Seybe  
 Ann Schmidt  
 Mary Simmons  
 Margaret Vondy  
 Isabel West  
 Anna Wheeler  
 Dorothy Wingerter  
 Louise Wise

## MEN'S CLUBS

At the present time, the church has an organization known as the Men's Club, to which a majority of the men in the congregation belong. This club is very active and has done much to assist the church in a material way by financing improvements, the most important being one of considerable magnitude, the improvement of the church basement for recreational purposes. The improvement mentioned was quite expensive both in personal labor and money. The men have furnished both, and the facilities are increasingly in use.

Of quite as much importance is the social side of the club's activities. The men get together about once a month for a social time, usually with a good speaker or moving picture show, and really enjoy themselves. There have been similar organizations in the church in years past but they have existed but a few years. The present club is the best the church has ever had and seems destined to last indefinitely.

A complete list of the present officers and members follows:

### OFFICERS

FRANK W. WINGERTER, Minister  
 SAMUEL R. BRETTELL, President  
 LYLE P. CARSON, Vice President  
 ROBERT H. SCHWOEBEL, Secretary  
 JOSEPH HUNT, Treasurer

### MEMBERS

Thomas A. Adams  
 Jack Austin  
 Dr. David Berry  
 Raymond Bowker  
 Orson H. Brown  
 Thomas Brown  
 H. Norman Coudit  
 Allan Daley  
 J. Horace Eaton  
 Walter Emmons, Sr.  
 Edwin C. Freidrich  
 S. Frederick Garrison  
 Arthur Grigg  
 Frederic C. Grigg

John Hartman  
 Henry S. Hartman  
 Roy Horner  
 Lester Johnson  
 Maurice F. Keen  
 Hector Lamont  
 John C. Lamont  
 H. Bertram McNinney  
 J. Carroll Newell  
 Robert M. Oberholser  
 Humphrey Owen  
 Lewis M. Parker  
 Charles C. Rose



## Y. P. S. C. E.

Mention is made earlier in this history of a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor which was organized on February 3, 1893. Elder Levi D. Tebo and his wife were instrumental in organizing this society as a memorial to their daughter Marguerite, who had died of diphtheria a short time before the society was organized.

Since its organization, the society has had a continuous existence, at times with a large membership enthusiastically entering into the work of the church. At such times their Sunday evening religious services drew audiences of considerable size and the society on numerous occasions conducted the evening church services. During the summer months, evening services were at times held on the church lawn at an hour that would not conflict with the evening services of other churches. Organ or cornet music would be provided and occasionally the speaker would be a prominent churchman from out of town. On one occasion at least, the choir from a Trenton church assisted. At these services, the attendance on the church lawn was large and the audience in the street was also of considerable size.

During its times of prosperity, the numerous social activities of the society were very well attended and the society took great interest in church improvements, working with the Sunday School and the Ladies' Aid Society in raising funds to enable the Board of Trustees to have the work done. At the present time the membership in the society is small but it is hoped that this condition is but temporary.

A complete list of the present members and a picture of the present officers follows:

### OFFICERS

PHYLLIS A. BRETTELL, President  
ELIZABETH A. ROSE, Treasurer

### MEMBERS

Janet D. Bowker  
Thomas E. Coundit  
Helen M. Giberson  
Janet E. Giberson  
Joan D. Gilbert  
Roger B. Grigg

Roberta A. Jobes  
James T. Layton  
Jeanne P. Layton  
C. Bennett Newell  
Camilla E. Schwoebel  
Robert H. Schwoebel



Left to right: Elizabeth A. Rose, Phyllis A. Brettell.

## MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE CARRIED THE TORCH

The writer may be considered as prejudiced when writing about the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown and its people. He freely admits it. Indeed it has been intimated on more than one occasion that he has a strong prejudice in favor of his native city, its institutions, and its inhabitants. He has never denied it.

It is not difficult for him to sit in the rear of the church or Lecture Room and, with eyes closed either actually or figuratively, visualize the forms and faces of those who once regularly occupied the pews or chairs but who have long since passed to their reward. Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Sunday School Teachers, and members of the congregation who were not officials, many elderly and dignified, some quite

the reverse, but with few if any exceptions, all honored, respected and admired, are thus seen again in the mind's eye.

Little did they dream at the time, of the influence they were exercising upon the lives of those around them or that others taking their places and influenced by their lives would carry on the work to the end of the first 100 years with such success as has been attained. Nor could they have foreseen the recognition their lives and services would be accorded in connection with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the church.

Extended biographies of all of the Stated Supplies and Pastors that the Bordentown Church has ever had follow, with portraits where it has been possible to secure them; also biographies of two missionaries and biographies and portraits of two Elders have been included.

#### REV. ALDEN CORTLANDT SCOVEL

Rev. Alden Cortlandt Scovel was born at Peru, Massachusetts, on April 4, 1801.

As a young man, he conducted a prosperous business in New York State. Subsequently he inherited a legacy of several thousand dollars which enabled him to satisfy a long standing ambition for an education higher than that afforded by the public school from which he had graduated.

After receiving his legacy, he was admitted to Yale College, graduating therefrom with honors in 1826. Following this, he entered Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating from that institution also with honors in 1829.

He was ordained as an Evangelist by the Presbytery of Albany, New York, on August 17, 1831, and served as Stated Supply at Hudson Second Presbyterian Church at Stockport, New York, from 1831 to 1846, when he removed to Bordentown, N. J. Here he opened an institution designed as "A School for the Higher Education of Young Men," which was successful from the start. It was said of Mr. Scovel that he would rather read in Latin than in his own, the English language; and that he never seemed so much at home as when

engaged in pointing out to his pupils the beauties of the classics. His school was located in a building on the hilltop on the west side of Main Street (now Farnsworth Avenue) which was built and originally occupied by Colonel Joseph Kirkbride, an officer in the Revolutionary Army. Others maintained schools in the building before the coming of Mr. Scovel; and after his school was discontinued, it became the home of the Bordentown Female College.

The First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown was organized May 14, 1848, and Reverend Alden C. Scovel was immediately appointed its Stated Supply, serving in that capacity until his resignation at the close of 1861.

Until the first house of worship was constructed, the services were held in the parlor of the building where Mr. Scovel conducted his school.

"When his service as Stated Supply was concluded, the Church had a membership of 133, and the congregation was occupying its new church edifice which was entirely clear of debt." This statement appears in the minutes of the Session under date of January 30, 1877, with the added comment that this was "accomplished by the indefatigable and self sacrificing labors and wise and skillful management of Mr. Scovel."

After leaving Bordentown, Mr. Scovel removed to Bloomington, Ill., where he taught until 1873. He then removed to Chicago, Ill., and resided there until his death which occurred in Chicago on July 14, 1887.

Philip S. Scovel, son of Rev. Alden C. Scovel, became a member of the church by confession on January 15, 1869, and served as Elder from February 13, 1876 until his resignation on October 6, 1899. Shortly thereafter he removed to Camden, N. J., where he became a member of the First Presbyterian Church on November 26, 1900. He was Clerk of the Session in the Bordentown Church from June 2, 1887 to October 6, 1899.

The restored portrait of Rev. Alden C. Scovel and a portion of the information regarding him, were furnished by his grandchildren. At their request, the portrait will be placed

in the new corner stone of the Church at the time of the dedication ceremonies on May 14, 1948.

Unfortunately the Biblical records of the Scovel family were destroyed in a warehouse fire years ago and it has been necessary to secure much of the data used from various other sources.

Two interesting incidents occurred during Mr. Scovel's ministry which his grandchildren have recounted to the writer. Mr. Scovel, like Harmon Yerkes, was a personal friend of Father Joseph Biggio, Pastor of the Catholic Church. The two met on the street one day when Mr. Scovel was soliciting contributions for the Building Fund of the new church and the Father, upon learning his friend's mission, immediately volunteered a very substantial contribution.

After the new building was completed, it was decided to install a church bell, and one of Mr. Scovel's very attractive daughters started on a collecting tour. She called at the home of a Scotch member who indignantly refused to contribute saying: "If the Parson is so foolish as to put a bell in the Kirk, I will have nothing to do with it." Finally, however, he changed his mind, and when she left, he presented her with a check for a handsome amount and was told to return if more should be needed.

#### REV. O. H. HAZARD

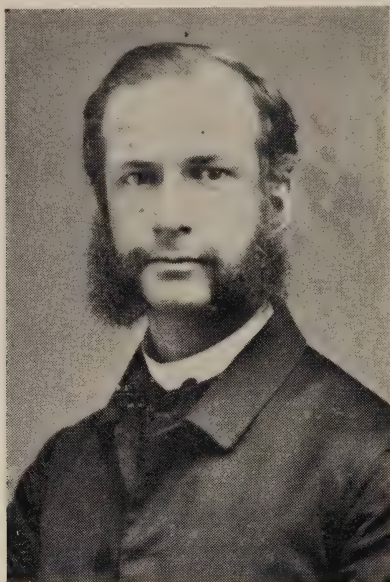
Rev. O. H. Hazard was born near Trenton, N. J., on June 11, 1826. He attended Princeton Theological Seminary from 1860 to 1863, graduating in 1863. After graduation he taught for a short time. He was ordained as an Evangelist by the Presbytery of Burlington on April 20, 1864.

He served the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, N. J., as a Stated Supply from May, 1863 to September, 1865, when he accepted a call to become Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick, N. J.

During his service at the Bordentown Church, 14 persons were added to the church membership by Confession and 24 by Certificate, a total of 38. He died at Trenton, N. J., on April 4, 1906.



REV. JOSEPH GREENLEAF, JR.



Rev. Joseph Greenleaf, Jr., was born in New York City, on November 9, 1838.

He graduated from Columbia University in 1860, attended Princeton Theological Seminary from 1860 to 1863, graduating in 1863.

He served the Presbyterian Church at Palisade, N. Y., as Pastor from 1863 to 1866. On May 8, 1866 he was installed by the Presbytery of Burlington as the first ordained Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Bordentown, N. J., and served in this capacity until March, 1871.

During his pastorate, 25 persons were added to the church membership by Confession and 37 by Certificate, a total of 62.

He died at Washingtonville, N. Y., on February 5, 1898.

It was during Mr. Greenleaf's pastorate that the original church property on the corner of Park and Second Streets was sold and the present church on Farnsworth Avenue near Burlington Street was built. Shortly thereafter the Pennsylvania Railroad Company leased the Camden and Amboy Rail-

road and removed the extensive Railroad Shops from Bordentown to Meadows, near Jersey City, N. J. This caused a considerable portion of the congregation who were employed in the Railroad Shops to remove to points in the vicinity of Meadows, leaving the Bordentown Church with a fine church property, a large debt, and a small congregation.

### REV. RUFUS TAYLOR

Rev. Rufus Taylor was born at Harley, Massachusetts, on March 24, 1811.

His early education was received at academies in Southampton and Harley, Massachusetts. This was followed by the usual college course at Amherst College, where he graduated in 1837. He then attended Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating from that institution in 1840.

He served as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury, N. J., from 1840 to 1852; as Pastor of the Congregational Church at Manchester, Massachusetts, from 1852 to 1858; and as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Hightstown, N. J., from 1858 to 1862.

From 1862 to 1872, he was District Secretary of the American and Foreign Christian Union, his field consisting of the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

After the resignation of Mr. Greenleaf, the church was without a Pastor for a considerable time. Included in the Session minutes of July 6, 1871 is an entry indicating that Rev. Rufus Taylor, D.D., would accept the position of Stated Supply for the Bordentown Church under certain conditions which were acceptable to the Session and it was arranged accordingly.

The chief condition was to the effect that the clearing of the church debt, which he would endeavor to do, was not to be considered his primary service but rather incidental to his religious duties.

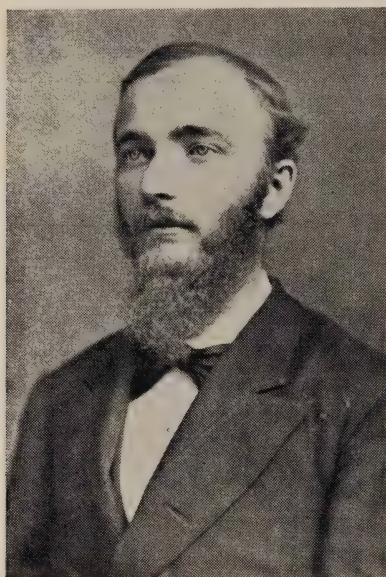
Dr. Taylor continued as Stated Supply until January 5, 1874, when he was installed as the second Pastor of the church, and so remained until his resignation in October, 1874.

During his service as Stated Supply and Pastor, at the Bordentown Church, 20 persons were added to the church membership by Confession and 22 by Certificate, a total of 42. When he resigned, the church was entirely free from debt, chiefly due to his extraordinary and consecrated efforts.

Dr. Taylor was a remarkable man and came from a remarkable family. He was one of four brothers, all ministers. He was granted the D.D. degree at Lafayette College in 1863 and was well known as a prolific and successful writer in his day.

He died at Beverly, N. J., on August 18, 1894.

#### REV. LEIGH RICHMOND SMITH



Rev. Leigh Richmond Smith was born at Monroe, Alabama, on June 5, 1850.

He graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1872, entered Princeton Theological Seminary in 1872 and graduated therefrom in 1875.

He was ordained by Monmouth Presbytery on September 9, 1875, and thereafter installed as the Pastor of the First

Presbyterian Church at Bordentown, N. J., serving in that capacity until November 8, 1876, when he resigned to accept a call as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, at Dayton, Ohio.

During his pastorate 25 persons were added to the church membership by Confession and 13 by Certificate, a total of 38.

#### REV. OLIVER A. KERR

Rev. Oliver A. Kerr was born at Center Hill, Pennsylvania, on October 24, 1848.

He graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1874 and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1877. He was ordained and installed by Monmouth Presbytery on September 4, 1877, and served as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, N. J., until his resignation on September 26, 1899.

During his pastorate 116 persons were added to the church membership by Confession and 68 by Certificate, a total of 184.

He died at Bordentown, N. J., on October 24, 1926.

The above information, which is very meager, has been taken from the records of the Presbyterian Historical Society. It is indeed surprising that so little information is available regarding a man of such intellectual standing, who served one church for a period of 22 years with outstanding ability and delivered sermons that were difficult to surpass. The writer remembers him with deep affection and great respect.

#### REV. CHARLES H. WHITTAKER

Rev. Charles Hurlburt Whittaker was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on December 7, 1862.

He graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1887 and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1890.

He was ordained by the Presbytery of Westminster on April 8, 1890, and served as Pastor of the Presbyterian Churches at Avondale and West Grove, Pa., from 1890 to 1893.

He next served as Stated Supply at the Reformed Church, Lower Walpeck, Pa., for the year 1893 and as Pastor from 1894 to 1900.

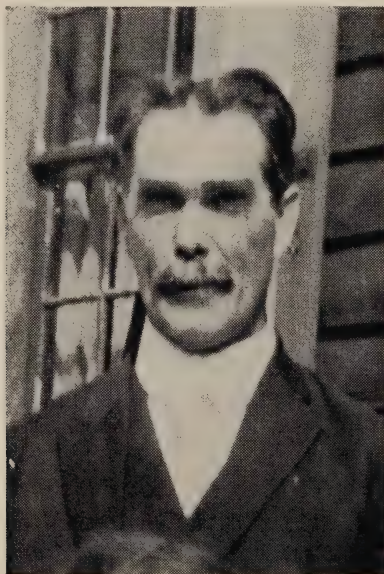
From 1897 to 1899 he took a post graduate course at Union Theological Seminary, and received there the B.D. degree.

He was appointed Stated Supply at the First Presbyterian Church, Bordentown, N. J., on May 10, 1900 and Pastor, July 9, 1901, serving in the latter capacity until his resignation on March 9, 1911. He later became Assistant Pastor at West Hope Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

During his pastorate at the Bordentown Church, 36 persons were added to the church membership by Confession and 52 by Certificate, a total of 88.

In the spring of 1905, the Elders of the church were invited to attend a beautiful and impressive service at the "Little Church around the Corner" New York City, when Rev. Charles H. Whittaker and Miss Lillian Borden were united in marriage.

#### REV. HOWELL DAVIES



Rev. Howell Davies was born in Wales in 1865. Early in life he was engaged in Y.M.C.A. and evangelistic work in



Canada.

He graduated from Oberlin College and was ordained in 1898. His early ministry was performed within the Presbytery of Oswego, N. Y., from whence he was transferred to the Presbytery of Monmouth, N. J., to enable him to accept a call from the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, N. J., in November 1912.

He served as Pastor at the Bordentown Church until October 31, 1919 when he resigned on account of ill health. During his pastorate, 75 additions were made to the church membership by Confession, and 26 by Certificate, a total of 101. After an interval for recuperation, he accepted a call from the Presbyterian Church of Liberty Corners, N. J., being transferred to the Presbytery of Elizabeth, N. J. on January 21, 1921 to permit of his acceptance. He remained as Pastor of the Liberty Corners Church until May 15, 1924 when ill health again caused his resignation, and his retirement to the Merriam Home at Newton, N. J., where he died in February, 1925.

Throughout his life, Mr. Davies was a well known contributor to the secular press in the form of letters.

It is regretable that more information is not available regarding Mr. Davies. Such as is given was secured from the records of the Presbyterian Historical Society and from the Minute Book of the church he served in Bordentown. The portrait is reproduced from a small group snapshot taken in the home yard of a member of his congregation in Bordentown.

#### REV. ROBERTS WILLIAMS

Rev. Roberts Williams was born at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on May 2, 1891, but reared on a farm in Southern California. He attended public schools at Orange, California and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, graduating from Wilkes-Barre High School in 1908. He then entered Lafayette College and after completing his freshman year, transferred to Princeton University, graduating from the latter institution in February,



REV. ROBERTS WILLIAMS

1913 with an A.B. Degree. Graduate study at Princeton University until June, 1913 was followed by a regular course at Princeton Theological Seminary from whence he graduated in May, 1916.

During his student career, Mr. Williams spent his vacations for a number of years in missionary work among the gold miners of Western Canada and the lumbermen of the the State of Washington.

On June 30, 1917, he enlisted as a private in the 17th Railway Engineers and was later commissioned in France as Chaplain of the 26th Infantry, 1st Division. He served with this regiment in five battles, was twice wounded and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters.

At a Congregational Meeting held November 1, 1920, Mr. Williams was unanimously elected Pastor and the Clerk of Session was directed to extend a call accordingly. A special meeting of Monmouth Presbytery was held in the Borden-

town Church at 7:30 P. M., November 22, 1920, at which time he was received from Lackawanna Presbytery, Pennsylvania, as a member of Monmouth Presbytery and was thereafter installed as Pastor. He served in this capacity until July 1, 1935, although much handicapped by deafness incurred in battle. During his pastorate, 76 additions were made to the church membership by Confession, 55 by Certificate and one by Reaffirmation, a total of 132.

Mr. Williams early felt that his deafness would eventually make it advisable for him to retire from the ministry, as he did after resigning as Pastor of the Bordentown Church; and with the approval of the Session, he enrolled as a graduate student at the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied from 1921 to 1924.

He served as Moderator of Monmouth Presbytery in 1933 and has been active in civic and veterans organizations, serving at times as chaplain in local, state and even national organizations. He was Chaplain of the New Jersey State Senate in 1935.

He is now Chief Training Advisor of the Unemployment Compensation Commission of New Jersey.

On June 28, 1922, he married Miss Gertrude Tebo, whose father, Dr. Levi D. Tebo, was a prominent physician for many years in the City of Bordentown and Elder in the church of which Mr. Williams was Pastor.

### REV. WILLIAM A. GUENTHER

Rev. William A. Guenther was born at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 16, 1908.

His early education was received at Philadelphia, Lancaster and Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

After graduating from the high school at Upper Darby, he entered the College of Wooster, Ohio, graduating therefrom with B.A. degree in 1930. He then entered Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating from that institution in



REV. WILLIAM A. GUENTHER

1933 with the degree of Bachelor of Theology.

Mr. Guenther's first charge embraced three churches, Nicholson, New Milford, and Brooklyn, Pennsylvania, which he served from 1933 to 1936, when he accepted a call as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Bordentown, N. J.

When serving at his first charge Mr. Guenther conducted three Sunday Services, one at each of the three churches. Two services were held in the morning and one in the evening, requiring a round trip by automobile of nearly 100 miles each Sunday.

Mr. Guenther was installed at the Bordentown Church on March 9, 1936 and served until May 15, 1942, when he accepted a call from the Lawndale Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he is still serving as Pastor.

During his pastorate at the Bordentown Church, 27 persons were added to the church membership by Confession of Faith, 2 by Reaffirmation and 26 by Certificate, a total of 55.

One of the very notable accomplishments of Mr. Guenther

was the clearing of the church from debt. This debt was chiefly due to past improvements and amounted to about \$3,000.00 when he became Pastor of the church.

On May 15, 1938, the Sunday preceding the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the church, Mr. Guenther marked the occasion by the preparation of a brief history of the church which with a suitable sermon was presented to the congregation at the morning service. In the evening, the service centered around a historic tableau presented by the young people of the congregation under the guidance of Mr. Guenther.

At both services, great stress was laid upon the preparation that should be made for a suitable recognition of the 100th Anniversary. Plans were subsequently made for celebration covering the period from Sunday, May 9, to Sunday, May 16, 1848, both dates included.

Mr. Guenther's work among the young people of the church was particularly successful.

When he left the Bordentown Church for a larger field of endeavor, the parting was with deep regret on the part of both Pastor and Congregation.

### REV. FRANK W. WINGERTER

Rev. Frank W. Wingerter was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on March 7, 1915.

He was educated at elementary schools in Springfield, Ohio, graduated from the high school at Mt. Healthy, Ohio, on June 14, 1935, entered Bloomfield College and Seminary, Bloomfield, N. J. in September 1936 and graduated therefrom on May 16, 1940 with B.A. degree. Following this, he entered Princeton Theological Seminary in September 1940 and graduated from that institution on May 17, 1943.

Immediately after graduation from the Seminary, he accepted a call from the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, N. J., was ordained and installed in that church as its Pastor on June 29, 1943, and is still serving in that capacity.

During the second and third years of his pastorate, he





**REV. FRANK W. WINGERTER**

took a post graduate course at Princeton Theological Seminary, receiving therefrom on August 16, 1946 the degree of Master of Theology.

Since he accepted the call to the Bordentown Church 40 members have been added by Confession, 10 by Reaffirmation and 15 by Certificate, a total of 65, and the good work is still going on.

Since coming to Bordentown, Mr. Wingerter has taken a deep interest in the Plattsburg Presbyterian Church, located at Sykesville, N. J., about nine miles distant from Bordentown. At this point, there is an attractive church building constructed over 100 years ago, when there was a Presbyterian congregation there of considerable strength and activity.

As years have passed since that time, the Presbyterian element, greatly reduced by death and removal, without compensating additions, has not been able to maintain the church property or services, although there has been throughout a strong desire to do so.

Conditions have changed of late as Mr. Wingerter has found. He has been conducting services there from time to time and has revived interest to such an extent that a Session and a Board of Trustees have been elected, the church building has been repaired, and the future of the church seems quite promising.

### REV. ROBERT JULIAN

Rev. Robert Julian was born at Santa Cruz, West Indies, on September 9, 1823.

He came to the United States when 19 years of age. He graduated from Rutgers College in 1850 and from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1852, was licensed by the Classis of New Brunswick the same year and shortly thereafter was ordained and installed as Pastor of the Reformed Church at Sharon, Schoharie County, New York, where he continued as Pastor until 1857. The "Classis" of the Reformed Church corresponds with the "Presbytery" of the Presbyterian Church.

He next served as Stated Supply at Cape Island (now Cape May) Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Burlington, from 1857 to 1859.

In 1859 he removed to Bordentown and became the Principal of Bordentown Public Schools. He was promoted to County Examiner in 1866, and continued in that position for several years.

After completing his service as County Examiner, he opened a private school known as Adelphic Institute at his residence on the corner of Farnsworth Avenue and Union Street which he continued to operate for a long time.

He died at Bordentown on April 27, 1901.

Mr. Julian became a member of Monmouth Presbytery in 1865 and remained a member the remainder of his life. He became affiliated with the Bordentown Church in 1859 and maintained an active interest in its affairs until his death. His name appears repeatedly in the minutes of the Church Session as acting as Moderator of the Session during the

sometimes rather long intervals when the church was without a pastor. During the most of his residence in Bordentown, it was the practice for the pastor during the church service to call upon someone in the Congregation for a prayer. Very often, Rev. Robert Julian was the one called upon and the venerable gentleman always stood in his pew and responded in an impressive way.

In his will, a legacy of \$500.00 was left to the church, the income to be used for the care of his burial lot in the Bordentown Cemetery, any not needed for this purpose to be used in payment of the pastor's salary.

### REV. SAMUEL H. MURPHY

Rev. Samuel H. Murphy was the son of Elder William R. Murphy and with his father, mother and sister became a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, N. J., by Certificate of Dismissal from the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Trenton, N. J., on May 2, 1863.

The minutes of the Session state that a Preparatory Service was held in the Church Lecture Room on Saturday evening, April 1, 1871, at which the sermon was preached by Rev. A. W. Sprowll, of Chester, Pa.

On the following Sabbath morning, April 2, 1871, the Rev. Samuel H. Murphy preached and administered the Communion, assisted by Rev. A. W. Sprowll. Elder Samuel R. Walker supplied the table and Elders Henry Vanatta and Mahlon Hutchinson served.

The date for holding the Communion Service was advanced from the regular time to suit the convenience of Rev. Samuel H. Murphy who sailed for the west coast of Africa on April 12, 1871, where he served as a missionary in Corisco Presbytery, West Africa, under the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions from 1871 to 1874 and again from 1877 to 1880.

The records of the Presbyterian Historical Society state that at various times during his career he was a member of Chicago, Winona, Manhattan and Corisco Presbyteries.

In the book "One Hundred Years" by Brown in the Library of the Presbyterian Historical Society appears the following statement:

"Rev. Samuel H. Murphy was highly efficient in developing the character of the African Christians and in persuading them to break up a superstitious and tyrannical secret society."

While laboring in Corisco Presbytery, West Africa, Rev. Samuel H. Murphy was closely associated with Rev. Robert H. Nassau, who was one of the most efficient, faithful and outstanding missionaries of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. The Presbyterian Historical Society has much information on file regarding Rev. Robert H. Nassau and little regarding Rev. Samuel H. Murphy. As the two labored together in the West Africa Mission Field, and the former was not altogether a stranger in the Bordentown Church, a little sketch of the career of Rev. Robert H. Nassau will not be out of place in this history, and will give an idea of the service required of the missionaries in Corisco Presbytery, including the one from the Bordentown Church.

#### REV. ROBERT H. NASSAU

Rev. Robert H. Nassau served as a missionary in Corisco Presbytery from 1860 to 1906 and in his writings mentions that Rev. Samuel H. Murphy was one of his assistants.

He established three mission fields in West Africa, translated the New Testament into the Pongue language and the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Psalms into the Benga language.

He had a daughter who lived in Bordentown for a time and on one of his furloughs he spent considerable time in the city. While there, he attended the Presbyterian Church and Sunday School services and presented the Sunday School with one of his books telling of his 40 years of experience as a missionary in Western Africa.

REV. EDMUND MORRIS PEASE  
and  
MRS. HARRIET STURTEVANT PEASE

Rev. Edmund Morris Pease was born at Granby, Massachusetts, on December 6, 1828, and professed religion at Granby on July 2, 1848.

He was educated at Williston Seminary, East Hampton, and Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, graduating from the latter institution in 1854. After this he spent one year at East Windsor Seminary and two years at Union Seminary. He then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, and graduated therefrom with M.D. degree. He served as a surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War for four years. Following the war, he became a practising physician at Springfield, Massachusetts.

He was ordained as a Medical Missionary at the First Congregational Church at Springfield, Massachusetts, on May 9, 1877.

Miss Harriet Almira Sturtevant was born at Westport, New York on October 21, 1846 and professed religion in the Spring of 1862. She was educated at North Granville Seminary, New York, and engaged for a time in teaching, and as Assistant Librarian at the Public Library, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Dr. Pease and Miss Sturtevant were united in marriage at Bordentown, N. J., on April 25, 1877, where Miss Sturtevant resided with her brother Edmund D. Sturtevant at the time. Immediately after their marriage, they left Bordentown for their distant missionary station in the South Seas.

They sailed from San Francisco, California on May 23, 1877, and from Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands on June 14, 1877, arriving at Ebon, Marshall Islands on October 10, 1877. The trip from San Francisco to Ebon was made in a sailing vessel named the "Morning Star" which made one round trip to the islands each year transporting supplies for the mission stations and missionary personnel for the work. This vessel provided their chief or only contact with the outside world over a long



period of years. This particular trip was a lengthy one, including as it did three periods of calm of 39 days, 17 days and 9 days respectively, which must have been very trying for the new missionaries.

On the way to Ebon, the vessel stopped at one of the Gilbert Islands where the native chief was found quite ill. When the native Council of Elders found that Mr. Pease was a physician, they suggested that he hasten the death of their present chief by medicine, make his permanent home on their island and become their chief. Several other offers were made which they no doubt considered good, but the crowning inducement was the offer of as many wives as he wished.

Life on the little coral atoll of Ebon proved very difficult. The food supply from island sources was very limited, and the missionaries had to rely chiefly upon the annual visits of the "Morning Star." At the end of the first year their remaining food consisted of one loaf of bread and one can of vegetables. They remained on the island of Ebon two years and their first son, Dr. Edmund M. Pease, was born there. He is still living, having recently retired after 34 years of service as a psychiatrist with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the Medfield State Hospital, Harding, Massachusetts.

The Marshall Islands comprise 33 atolls or coral islands inhabited by about 10,000 natives and all were included in the mission station or parish over which the two missionaries presided.

After two years at Ebon, the Training School which had been established thereat was transferred with the Pease family to the Island of Kusai otherwise known in later years as Strong's Island. This island, which is of volcanic origin, proved very healthful and was also fertile, furnishing a great variety of native fruits and vegetables. Their second son, Francis Sturtevant Pease, was born on this island. He died at Claremont, California, several years ago.

The school previously mentioned was maintained for the purpose of teaching and training boys and girls for missionary work throughout the islands. Dr. Pease visited the islands of

the group once a year each trip requiring about three months' time. He acted as minister, teacher, physician, dentist, and undertaker. He was also a carpenter, and with native help built his home and the building where the church services were held and the school taught on the island of Kusaii.

Mrs. Pease taught the natives spelling, writing, and music and carried on the lessons for the two sons. The Marshall Islands had no written language when the first missionaries arrived, so it was necessary to give them one before schools could function. This was done using the English alphabet.

Dr. Pease translated a considerable portion of the Old Testament, all of the New Testament, except the first five books, and a number of gospel hymns, into the native language; also compiled an arithmetic, a primer, a geography, and a dictionary of about 5,000 words. The earlier translations of the first five books of the New Testament were thoroughly revised by him. He continued his translation work after his retirement from the mission field, and enlarged and revised the Marshall Islands Hymn Book. He had almost completed the translation of the book of Isaiah at the time of his death. Mrs. Pease, who had assisted him throughout in translating, completed the translation of the book of Isaiah.

The boys and girls in the Training School were selected, usually on the doctor's annual trips to the various islands, were trained over a period of several years at Kusaii as pastors, teachers, and the girls as prospective wives; and, when sufficiently trained, were sent back to conduct sub-centers. They were usually transported between the islands by the "Morning Star" on its annual visits.

The doctor and his family visited the United States in 1885, reembarked in 1886, and finally returned to the United States arriving at San Francisco, California on April 7, 1894. On retirement, their home was made at Claremont, California, where Dr. Pease died on November 28, 1906 and his wife on January 9, 1933.

When on furlough in 1885-1886, the Pease family visited

Bordentown, spending some time at the home of Edmund D. Sturtevant, brother of Mrs. Pease, and renewing old acquaintances. Mrs. Sturtevant had a Sunday School class of young boys at the time, of whom the writer was one, and they were invited to spend an afternoon at the Sturtevant home. They found the Pease boys very congenial and willing to talk of the native boys and games and fishing experiences from the island shore, also to speak in the native language.

The writer was presented at the time with a collection of seashells, coral of different varieties, a very large mother of pearl fish hook for surf fishing and a woman's ornamental head band, which have all been used to good advantage since as exhibits in missionary talks to young people.

Mention is made of Dr. Pease and his work in "The Bible in the Pacific," by Rev. A. W. Murray, published in 1888; in the *Missionary Herald* of February, 1907; and in the *Bible Society Record* of April, 1944. Brief mention is made of him in the records of the Presbyterian Historical Society at Philadelphia, Pa.; more detailed information is on file in the office of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions of the Congregational Church at Boston, Massachusetts. All of these have been consulted and the information so secured has been confirmed and supplemented by correspondence with his son Dr. Edmund M. Pease, now living at Harding, Mass.

Mrs. Pease, with her mother Mrs. Clarinda Sturtevant, brother Edmund D. Sturtevant, sister Miss Caroline M. Sturtevant and aunt Miss Sophronia Sturtevant became members of the Bordentown Church by Certificate from the First Presbyterian Church of Beverly, N. J., on January 31, 1872.

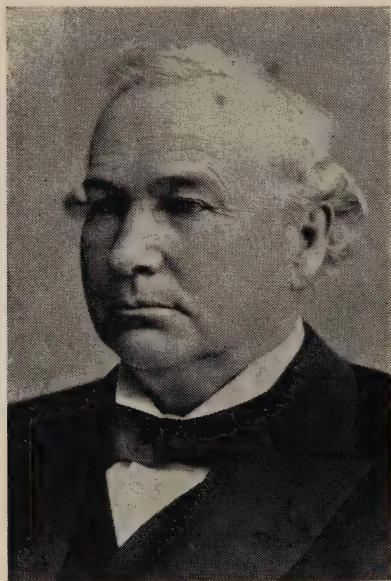
Miss Caroline M. Sturtevant was the teacher of the Beginner's Class of the Sunday School of the Bordentown Church for many years and it was under her that the writer's Sunday School education began about 70 years ago. During Miss Sturtevant's time as teacher and for years afterward, the Sunday School subscribed to a weekly paper for the Beginners. The paper was an attractive one named the "Morning Star" after the Mission sailing vessel on which her sister

sailed to her island home.

Years afterward, one of the Sunday School girls, then grown to womanhood, became a contributor to the "Morning Star," writing interesting stories for the little ones. This was Miss Annie E. Oldrey, then employed in New York City.

Miss Sturtevant died at Los Angeles, California, on July 9, 1899.

### ELDER MAHLON HUTCHINSON



Of Elder Mahlon Hutchinson, the "History of Burlington and Mercer Counties" mentioned earlier in this narrative, records that he was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 10, 1823. On his paternal side, he was of Welsh origin, and on the maternal, of German descent.

He received a thorough academic education at Lawrenceville, N. J., entered the sophomore class of the College of New Jersey at Princeton, N. J., in 1840 and, after graduation therefrom, entered upon his highly successful legal career.

He became an Attorney at Law and Solicitor in Chancery

in 1845, Counselor at Law in 1854, and was appointed Prosecutor of Pleas, Burlington County in 1860, serving in this capacity for a period of five years. He was elected a member of the Lower House of the State Legislature in 1853 and served for two years, declining renomination.

His interest in local affairs was intense. He served as a member of the Public School Board and for many years was President of the Board of Trustees of the Bordentown Female College.

He was for some years a Director of the First National Bank of Trenton, N. J. On June 2, 1855, he was elected a Director of Bordentown Banking Company; in 1890 he was made its President and continued as such until his death on September 10, 1896.

While the foregoing may not seem directly connected with the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, it has been a distinct pleasure to the writer to gather and record this information regarding a man for whom he always held the highest respect and admiration and with whom in his younger days he was associated in the work of the church.

Elder Hutchinson was a member of the first Board of Trustees of the Church, was elected President of the Board at its first meeting on June 28, 1848, and continued as its President until November 13, 1874 when he ceased to be a Trustee.

When first elected a Trustee, he was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton, N. J., and it was not until August 10, 1863, that he transferred his membership to the Bordentown Church by Certificate. On August 16, 1863, he was elected an Elder in the Bordentown Church; on August 23, 1863 was ordained and installed, and on September 8, 1863, became Clerk of the Session.

He served as Clerk of the Session until May 17, 1866 only, but remained an Elder until his death on September 10, 1896.

At a meeting of the Session held on September 14, 1896



a resolution was adopted expressing the sympathy and respect of its members and describing Elder Hutchinson as a man "of modest and retiring demeanor, of social and courteous disposition, and a friend to the poor and needy." Expression was given also to the gratitude felt for his numerous benefactions to the Church and its various benevolent objects.

On July 11, 1882, Elder Hutchinson and his wife presented the Church with the building lot on the north side of the church as a site for a Manse to be built at some time in the future, if considered desirable.

On November 11, 1893, he and his wife presented the Church with the property No. 433 Farnsworth Avenue which has been used ever since as the Church Manse.

The Bordentown Church, like many others, has had many periods of financial stress. On such occasions, Elder Hutchinson proved a bulwark of strength. Often at the year end, he would present the Board of Trustees with a check of sufficient size to make up such deficit as might exist.

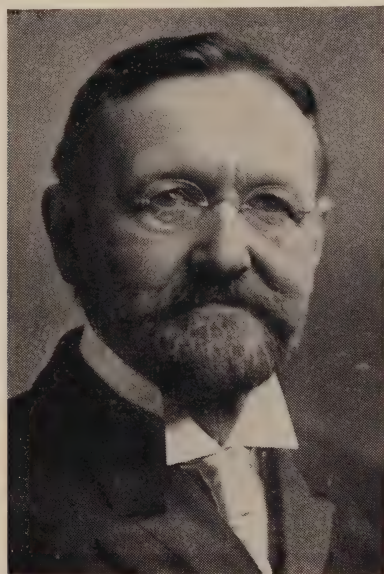
The writer's recollections of Elder Hutchinson are particularly pleasant. While taking great interest in all of the affairs of the Church, Elder Hutchinson was especially interested in its Sunday School and young people. When the writer called at the Elder's office, he was made to feel very welcome indeed, and encouraged to tell about the work of the School. Usually financial assistance was needed for the approaching picnic, Christmas entertainment or something similar. This was expected by the Elder and such calls were encouraged. After listening with a benevolent expression on his countenance, the Elder would open a drawer in his desk, remove a roll of silver dollars, break it open and begin to spread out the dollars on the desk. Presently he would stop and say, "Is that enough?" Upon receiving an affirmative answer, he would always end the interview, with the remark, "If you need more, come back."

At the present time, Elder Maurice Keen is Superintendent of the Sunday School. His wife, Mrs. Gertrude Hutchinson Keen, is a granddaughter of Elder Hutchinson and an

active member of the church and its choir. Their little daughter Mary Ann, great-granddaughter of Elder Hutchinson, is a faithful member of the Sunday School.

Elder Keen became a member of the Bordentown Church on March 30, 1940 by Certificate from the Community Church of Shanghai, China. He was born at Kimhwa, China, where his parents, both missionaries, were then stationed, his father teaching in a boys' school under the jurisdiction of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Baptist Church. His father later became Dean of the Language School at Nanking University, an interdenominational institution.

#### ELDER LEVI D. TEBO



Dr. Levi D. Tebo was born at Roaring Branch, near Williamsport, Pennsylvania. His great-grandfather on his mother's side was Laban Landon, a soldier in General George Washington's bodyguard in the Revolutionary War. On his father's side, his ancestors came to America from Alsace or Lorraine, where the name was spelled "Thibault."

He was a graduate of Mansfield Normal School and Hahnemann Medical College, and practiced medicine in Bordentown, N. J., for 36 years. For many years he was the physician for the Bordentown Military Institute. His general practice was large, extending for a considerable distance throughout the farming districts surrounding Bordentown.

He became a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, N. J., on February 1, 1874, by Certificate of Dismissal from the Arch Street Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, Pa.

He was elected Elder at a Congregational meeting held on April 17, 1888, and being repeatedly reelected, remained an Elder until April 28, 1908. On October 6, 1899, he was elected Clerk of the Session, holding that position until April 28, 1908, when he declined reelection as Elder.

His wife, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Tebo (formerly Miss Elizabeth M. Bruker), became a member of the Presbyterian Church by Certificate of Dismissal from Christ Church (Episcopal) Bordentown, on June 3, 1900. She served as a Trustee from March 31, 1929, until her resignation on April 6, 1933, and was President of the Ladies' Aid Society and of the Women's Missionary Society for many years. Her faithful and unselfish service was recognized by the whole congregation.

The Doctor died on June 14, 1910, and his wife on July 28, 1934.

A beautiful Memorial Window was installed in the church in 1924 by the members of the congregation in recognition of his long and devoted service in the church and community.

His daughter Gertrude, became the wife of Rev. Roberts Williams, then Pastor of the church, on June 28, 1922. Their two children, Robert L. and Monica Elizabeth were baptized in the church by their father.

The writer would have enjoyed compiling biographies of many of the other devoted men and women who have labored long and successfully in the Master's service, but time and space will not permit.

He would like to mention, however, a few more out-

standing characters of the church.

There was Capt. George B. Raymond, one of the earliest Trustees, who gave splendid service in securing the lot for the first church and in the construction of the building. Captain Raymond never joined the Church but for many years was a regular attendant at its services. His wife, Louisa A. Raymond, became a member on December 12, 1852.

Captain Raymond was Mayor of Bordentown in 1855. During the Civil War he volunteered to run a vessel through a Confederate blockade on the Potomac River, and succeeded in doing so. For this feat, he was awarded the military title of "Major" by President Abraham Lincoln and his family still holds the commission signed by the President,

For many years, he served the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as its Agent of Piers Nos. 1, 2 and 3, North River, on the New York City water front.

On the hotel register of the old Bordentown House under date of June 17, 1899 appears the following entry: "Capt. Geo. B. Raymond died 7:30 this eve. May he rest in peace—85 yrs. old." And under date of June 22, 1899: "Capt. Geo. B. Raymond buried today. A worthy parent, highly praised by all in this community." He well deserved the tribute.

There was Elder William R. Murphy, who became a member by Certificate from the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton, N. J., on May 2, 1863. He was elected Elder on August 23, 1863 and served as such until his death, December 19, 1887. He was Clerk of the Session from March 6, 1871 until his death. Elder Murphy served with distinction as a Colonel in the Civil War and thereafter as Keeper of the State Prison at Trenton.

For many years he taught a Sunday School class for women which was highly successful. His son, Rev. Samuel H. Murphy, was a missionary in Western Africa and his biography appears elsewhere in this history.

There was Elder George H. Voorhees who became a member of the Church by Certificate from the Second Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick, N. J., on January 15, 1869,

was elected Elder on February 13, 1876, and served as such until December 1, 1881. Elder Voorhees served as Superintendent of the Sunday School from 1869 to March 29, 1881, and as Leader of the Choir for a long time. He was also Superintendent of Public Schools at Bordentown for many years.

There was Edmund D. Sturtevant, who was a member of the Bordentown Church from January 31, 1872 until he removed to Los Angeles, California, and transferred his membership to the First Presbyterian Church of that city on April 11, 1892.

He served the Bordentown Church as Deacon, Trustee, Treasurer, Organist, and member of the Choir. He was largely instrumental in securing the installation of the pipe organ and extremely liberal in providing plants and flowers for use in the church.

He became an internationally known florist, was the first to introduce the culture of water plants in America, and was awarded many cups, medals and ribbons for his exhibits at horticultural shows all over the United States. He had contacts with England, France, Sweden, Germany, Egypt, South Africa, Zanzibar, Madagascar, Japan, China, Siberia, India, Brazil, Chile, and Australia, and from these countries obtained and introduced their native plants to America, growing, propagating, and crossing some of them within a few hundred yards of the Bordentown Church.

The Public Parks of the United States practically all secured their first aquatic plants from Mr. Sturtevant and he regularly supplied plants for the White House gardens at Washington, D. C.

When he removed from Bordentown he settled on a ranch or farm near Los Angeles, California. The City of Hollywood eventually absorbed his property which he developed as a real estate proposition. He died at Los Angeles on July 9, 1899. A sizable book could be written about him and his work.

The writer attended the Golden Gate Fair at San Francisco in September, 1939 and visited the Sturtevant home at Hollywood, spending a very pleasant afternoon with his former



Sunday School teacher, widow of Mr. Sturtevant, whom he had not seen for 40 years. She was over 90 years old at the time and died the following January. Her interest in the Bordentown Church never waned.

During its first 100 years, the Bordentown Church has included in its Congregation, men and women of diversified interests and occupations.

In the early days, many farmers and their families were numbered among the Congregation and during the time the Camden and Amboy R. R. Shops were located at Bordentown there were many mechanics. There have been also educators, inventors, lawyers, ministers, missionaries, pharmacists, physicians, musicians, sailors, including two sea captains, and soldiers including a number of officers of rather high degree. The same is doubtless true of the other churches of the city. There is, of course, no particular significance in the occupation. It is the consecration of the individual that counts, and there has been abundant evidence of that throughout the 100 years.

Still the writer has noted two very unusual circumstances in connection with the members of the Session and Board of Trustees. The Session has numbered among its members past and present the following Educators:

Rev. Robert Julian, Principal, Public Schools, Bordentown.

George H. Voorhis, Principal, Public Schools, Bordentown.

Robert M. Oberholser, Superintendent, Public Schools, Bordentown.

David Styer, Principal, Bordentown Military Institute.

William L. Wise, Professor, Bordentown Military Institute.

Paul G. Hartpence, Professor, Bordentown Military Institute.

Maurice F. Keen, Asst. Professor, Temple University.

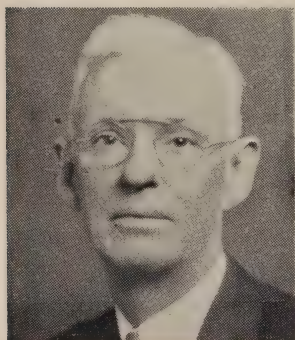
The last five mentioned are members of the Session at the present time. Portraits have been secured for all of these excepting Reverend Robert Julian, and they are shown grouped together on the following page.



GEORGE H. VOORHIS



ROBERT M. OBERHOLSER



DAVID STYER



WILLIAM L. WISE

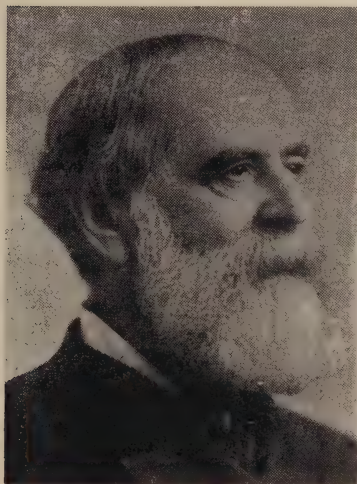


PAUL G. HARTPENCE

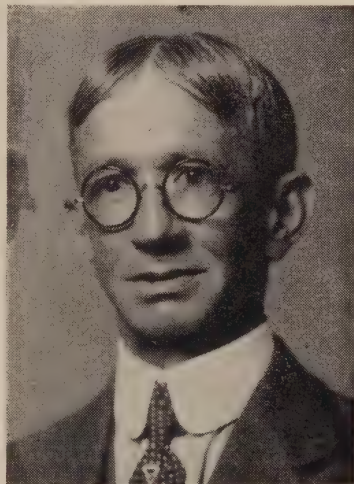


MAURICE F. KEEN

Two former members of the Board of Trustees and two of the present members of the Session have been Mayors of Bordentown, viz: George B. Raymond and John C. Friedrich, Trustees; Orson H. Brown and Lewis M. Parker, Elders.



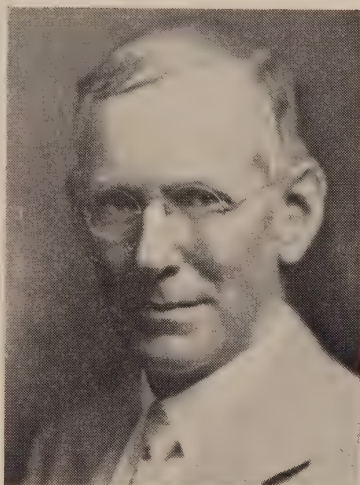
GEORGE B. RAYMOND



JOHN C. FRIEDRICH



LEWIS M. PARKER



ORSON H. BROWN



Complete lists of the present members of the Session, Deacons, Board of Trustees, Choir and Church follow, with group pictures of the Session, Deacons, Trustees and Choir.

SESSION



Left to right, rear row: Paul G. Hartpence, Lewis M. Parker, Lyle P. Carson, Maurice F. Keen. Front row: Robert M. Oberholser, Orson H. Brown, Walter Emmons, David Styer.

REV. FRANK WINGERTER, Moderator

ELDERS

	Elected
Orson H. Brown, Clerk	April 21, 1904
David Styer	June 18, 1907
William L. Wise	December 29, 1921
Robert M. Oberholser, Treasurer	March 13, 1924
Walter Emmons	April 12, 1928
Lewis M. Parker	April 6, 1933
Maurice F. Keen.	April 13, 1944
Lyle P. Carson	April 13, 1944
Paul G. Hartpence	April 11, 1946

## DEACONS



Left to right: Robert M. Oberholser, H. Norman Coundit, Walter Emmons, Lewis M. Parker.

	Elected
Walter Emmons	January 10, 1921
Joseph Hunt	April 14, 1921
H. Norman Coundit	March 13, 1924
Lewis M. Parker	March 13, 1924
Arthur H. Vondy	April 12, 1928
Robert M. Oberholser, Treasurer	April 22, 1928
Jefferson G. Foultz	April 22, 1928
Harrison P. Vondy	April 3, 1941

All of the Elders and Deacons have served continuously from dates shown.





Left to right, rear row: Arthur H. Vondy, Thomas Brown, Lewis M. Parker, Arthur Grigg, Hector Lamont. Center row: Charlotte F. Buchanan, Charles C. Rose, Raymond Bowker, Mrs. Margaret H. Cole. Front row: Henry S. Hartman, Robert M. Oberholser, David Styer, H. Norman Coundit.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Styer, President	Term Expires December 31, 1949
H. Norman Coundit, Secretary	December 31, 1949
Charles C. Rose	December 31, 1949
Miss Charlotte F. Buchanan, Asst. Treasurer	December 31, 1949
Mrs. Margaret H. Cole	December 31, 1949
Henry S. Hartman, Treasurer	December 31, 1950
Arthur H. Vondy	December 31, 1950
Thomas Brown	December 31, 1950
Samuel R. Brettell	December 31, 1950
Edwin C. Friedrich	December 31, 1950
Robert M. Oberholser	December 31, 1951
Lewis M. Parker	December 31, 1951
Hector Lamont	December 31, 1951
Raymond Bowker	December 31, 1951
Arthur Grigg	December 31, 1951

## SENIOR CHOIR



Church Organist and Choir Director, Mrs. Albert G. Foulz. Members, left to right, rear row: Doris M. Schwoebel, Mrs. Allen Daley, Mrs. Arthur Grigg, Humphrey Owen, Hector Lamont, C. Albert Kelsey, Maurice F. Keen. Front row: Mrs. Maurice F. Keen, Shirley A. Haines, Helen L. Reynolds, Charlotte F. Buchanan. Absent, Martha J. Berry.

## JUNIOR CHOIR



Church Organist and Choir Director, Mrs. Albert G. Foulz. Members, rear row: Elizabeth A. Rose, Phyllis A. Brettell, M. Elizabeth Oberholser, Jeanne P. Layton. Front row: Ruth E. Dickson, Janet E. Giberson, Joan D. Gilbert, Camilla E. Schwoebel, Lois M. Foster. Absent, Janet Bowker.



## PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Norman L. Abrams	Albert G. Foultz
Mrs. Norman L. Abrams	Edwin C. Friedrich
Thomas A. Adams	Mrs. Edwin C. Friedrich
Mrs. Thomas A. Adams	Samuel F. Garrison, Jr.
Philip K. Anderson	Mrs. Samuel F. Garrison, Jr.
John Barber	Mrs. Albert Gayzik
Mrs. John Barber	Mrs. C. Reginald Gibbs
Mrs. Elber Bebout	Miss Helen M. Giberson
Harold Bechtel	Miss Janet E. Giberson
Miss Marilyn R. Bechtel	Edward Gilbert
Mrs. John Boltner	Miss Joan D. Gilbert
Mrs. Joseph M. Bowker	William W. Goodwin, Jr.
Raymond Bowker	Mrs. William W. Goodwin, Jr.
Mrs. Raymond Bowker	Mrs. Roy Gordon
Miss Janet D. Bowker	Arthur Grigg
Miss Mae M. Bowker	Mrs. Arthur Grigg
Mrs. Raymond Bozarth	Frederic C. Grigg
Mrs. John Bradman	Roger B. Grigg
Mrs. William R. Branin	S. Ellis Grosskreuz
Mrs. Joseph R. Brettell	Robert B. Grosskreuz
Samuel R. Brettell	Donald G. Grove
Mrs. Samuel R. Brettell	Mrs. Donald G. Grove
Miss Phyllis A. Brettell	Mrs. Clinton Hamilton
Miss Mary L. Brown	Mrs. John Hand
Orson H. Brown	John Hartman
Thomas Brown	Mrs. John Hartman
Mrs. Thomas Brown	Henry S. Hartman
Miss Charlotte F. Buchanan	Mrs. Henry S. Hartman
Mrs. Charles A. Burton	Miss Marguerite S. Hartman
Lyle P. Carson	Paul G. Hartpence
Mrs. Lyle P. Carson	Mrs. Paul G. Hartpence
Floyd W. Carty	Mrs. Harry H. Hartzell
Mrs. Floyd W. Carty	Clifford Hepburn
H. Norman Coundit	George A. Horner
Mrs. H. Norman Coundit	Roy Horner
Thomas E. Coundit	Mrs. Roy Horner
Mrs. Grandon R. Cole	Joseph Hunt
Allen Daley	Mrs. Joseph Hunt
Mrs. Allen Daley	Mrs. Nathaniel R. Hunt
Miss Mabel Daley	Leslie S. Hyatt, Sr.
Edward T. Dickson, Sr.	Mrs. Leslie S. Hyatt, Sr.
Mrs. Edward T. Dickson, Sr.	Leslie S. Hyatt, Jr.
Edward T. Dickinson, Jr.	Miss Bessie Z. Jarrett
Miss Ruth E. Dickson	Willard O. Jobes
Mrs. William Dubell	Mrs. Willard O. Jobes
Thomas L. Dyer	Miss Roberta A. Jobes
Mrs. Thomas L. Dyer	William B. Jobes
J. Horace Eaton	Mrs. William B. Jobes
Miss Dorothy L. Eaton	Mrs. Lester A. Johnson
Mrs. Elwood Ehrhart	Maurice F. Keen
Mrs. Claude Emmons	Mrs. Maurice F. Keen
Miss Jean D. Emmons	Louis M. Kiesling
Walter Emmons, Sr.	Mrs. Louis M. Kiesling
Walter Emmons, Jr.	Mary Ann Kiesling
Miss Helen M. Evans	Mrs. George King
Mrs. S. Walter Fitzgerald	Mrs. Marvin G. Kirby
Mrs. George Foster	Mrs. Joseph I. Klein
Norman G. Foster	Miss Rachel M. Klein
Lois M. Foster	George H. Laird
Jefferson G. Foultz	Mrs. George H. Laird
Mrs. Jefferson G. Foultz	Hector Lamont

Mrs. Hector Lamont  
 John C. Lamont  
 William M. Lamont  
 John S. Lawrence  
 Mrs. John L. Lawrence  
 Miss Jean E. Lawrence  
 Miss Elizabeth M. Lawrence  
 James P. Layton  
 Mrs. James P. Layton  
 James T. Layton  
 Miss Jeanne P. Layton  
 Mrs. George W. Lieberman  
 Lynden E. MacDermid  
 Mrs. Lynden E. MacDermid  
 Miss Margaret A. MacDermid  
 H. Bertram McNinney  
 Mrs. H. Bertram McNinney  
 Mrs. Walter Matlack  
 Mrs. Elmer Meench  
 Elmer H. Meench  
 Gordon Moon  
 Mrs. Gordon Moon  
 Miss M. Phyllis Moon  
 Shirley Ann Moon  
 Shirley M. Myers  
 Joseph C. Newell  
 Mrs. Joseph C. Newell  
 C. Bennett Newell  
 Walter Nice  
 Mrs. Walter Nice  
 Robert M. Oberholser  
 Mrs. Robert M. Oberholser  
 Miss M. Elizabeth Oberholser  
 Humphrey Owens  
 Mrs. Humphrey Owens  
 George Parcels  
 Woodrow W. Parcels  
 Mrs. William J. Parker  
 Clinton D. Parker  
 Lewis M. Parker  
 Mrs. Lewis M. Parker  
 William C. Parker  
 Mrs. J. Haldon Potter  
 William Potts  
 Mrs. William Potts  
 Mrs. Arthur Purcall

Mrs. Lonnie Purks  
 Lonnie Purks, Jr.  
 Mrs. Lonnie Purks, Jr.  
 Miss Alice M. Ravatt  
 Mrs. Wesley Reed  
 Mrs. George W. Read  
 Oliver R. Reynolds  
 Mrs. Oliver R. Reynolds  
 Miss Helen L. Reynolds  
 Oliver R. Reynolds, Jr.  
 Harry P. Robinson  
 Harry P. Robinson, Jr.  
 Charles C. Rose  
 Mrs. Charles C. Rose  
 Charles H. Rose  
 Miss Elizabeth A. Rose  
 J. Harold Rossell  
 Edwin P. Schwoebel  
 Mrs. Edwin P. Schwoebel  
 Miss Camilla E. Schwoebel  
 Miss Doris M. Schwoebel  
 Robert H. Schwoebel  
 Mrs. Louis Seybe  
 Mrs. Elmer J. Simmons  
 Miss Irene M. Simmons  
 Frank P. Singles  
 Mrs. William N. Smith  
 Mrs. Vernon Southard  
 Mrs. Almon G. Stonier  
 David Styer  
 James F. Tantum  
 Mrs. James F. Tantum  
 Miss Betty Lou Taylor  
 Miss Ethel B. Taylor  
 Mrs. Marvin Vanarsdale  
 Charles F. Van Horn  
 Mrs. Charles F. Van Horn  
 Arthur H. Vondy  
 Mrs. Arthur H. Vondy  
 Harrison P. Vondy  
 Mrs. George Wargo  
 Miss Anna P. Wheeler  
 Mrs. Frank W. Wingarter  
 William L. Wise  
 Mrs. William L. Wise

And thus concludes the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, New Jersey, for the first 100 years of its existence. No one can foresee what lies ahead, but it seems quite certain that the generation to come will have problems to solve that will be quite as complex as any that have confronted their ancestors.

However, we of this generation have full confidence in the boys and girls growing up around us and believe that with Divine guidance, they can leave behind them a record quite as



inspiring as that inscribed in this book.

"Be not therefor anxious for the morrow; for the morrow will be anxious for itself," said Matthew in his Gospel. This advice, we may well heed.

When the church corner stone is reopened on May 14, 2048, a copy of this book will be found therein and will no doubt be read with interest. May the confidence herein expressed prove well founded.

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 100th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

Sunday, May 9th

Sunday School—10:00 A. M.

Morning Seervice—11:00 A. M.

Sermon—Rev. Frank W. Wingerter, Pastor

Special music—Church Choir

Evening Union Service—7:30 P. M.

Sermon—Rev. Wm. A. Guenther, Pastor—1936-1942

Pastors of other Churches participating

Wednesday, May 12th

Historical Pageant—7:30 P. M.

(1) Address—Roberts Williams, Pastor—1920-1935

(2) 100 years in review

(3) Reception

Friday, May 14th

Supper—6:00 P. M.

For members of Congregation and visiting members of  
Monmouth Presbytery

Corner Stone Ceremony—7:30 P. M.

Followed by Rededication Service—Address: Moderator,  
Monmouth Presbytery

Music—Princeton Theological Seminary Choir

Sunday, May 16th

Sunday School—10:00 A. M.

Morning Service—11:00 A. M.

Communion Meditation, and Sacrament of the Lord's  
Supper—Rev. Edw. H. Roberts, D.D., Princeton Theo-  
logical Seminary.

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